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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin Aide Meeting PLO Leaders on MIA's

TA0112060393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin's political adviser, Jacques Neriya, has reportedly been meeting PLO leaders in Tunis over the last few days. This according to Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent who adds: Neriya discussed a wide range of issues, focusing on the fate of Israel's six missing soldiers. He is also said to have discussed issues related to the autonomy negotiations. Neriya is due to join Prime Minister Rabin in Brussels today and, according to our reporter, the subject of their meeting will be whether the prime minister will hold a summit meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat before the December 13 deadline.

Speaking at a press conference in Rome before departing yesterday, the prime minister was asked about Neriya's visit to Tunis.

[Begin Rabin recording] There are many Israelis that go to Tunisia and back. Whatever they are doing there is not related to the main issues that have to be solved to reach an agreement about the implementation of the declaration of principles and to bring about the first phase—Gaza-Jericho First. [end recording]

Sha'th Sets Conditions for Pact With Israel

NC3011153393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli security and civilian affairs committees resumed their meetings in Cairo and al-'Arish today to continue their discussions of the issues related to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement before 13 December, the date set out in the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

The security affairs committee—which is led on the Palestinian side by Nasr Yusuf, one of the PLO security officials—is discussing the areas where the Israeli forces will be deployed inside the settlements in the Gaza Strip and the area of Jericho from which Israel will withdraw.

The committee is also discussing the crossing points between the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the other areas of the West Bank, Israel, Egypt, and Jordan, in addition to the issue of releasing the Palestinian detainees in Israeli camps and prisons.

The civilian affairs committee, which is meeting in al-'Arish, is discussing the issue of transferring the authority, services, and facilities in the Gaza Strip and Jericho from Israeli control to Palestinian control. The Palestinian side is led by lawyer Jamil al-Turayfi, and the Israeli side is led by Jadi Zuhayr, the official in charge of civilian affairs in the occupied West Bank.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, stated that the negotiations that have been held over the last two weeks by the security and civilian affairs committees have been very difficult. He said that the first progress that has been made in these negotiations occurred when the Israeli side retracted its demand for 170 square km of in the Gaza Strip over which are built Israeli settlements and presented a new demand yesterday confining the settlements to an area of 36 square km in the Strip. Dr. Sha'th stressed that all the territories on which the settlements have been built are stolen Palestinian properties and their ownership has been forcibly taken away from their real Palestinian owners.

Dr. Sha'th went on to say in his statement that there are still problems concerning the roads that will link the settlements and also the issue of the Israeli camps that are necessary to guard these settlements.

He also said that the Israeli side has retracted its demand to set up permanent military points outside these settlements and it has been agreed that these points should be inside the settlements themselves. He added that there are still differences over defining the area of Jericho, noting that the Palestinian side is insisting that the area of Jericho should be the same as that of the pre-1967 war "Jericho district." He stressed that the PLO will not sign an agreement on Gaza if there is no agreement on the Jericho area.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Israeli side has to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the principles that cover the Gaza and Jericho areas and not one area alone. He added that the Palestinian side is insisting on controlling the bridges and crossing points that link the Gaza-Jericho areas with Egypt and Jordan. He noted that the Israelis want to control the international border points between Gaza and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan, but, he said, we will not be a bridge for Israel to the Arab countries. He said that the Palestinian side will not sign an agreement with the Israeli side on 12 December unless an agreement is reached on the release of all Palestinian detainees in Israeli camps and prisons.

Israel Seen Obstructing Accord

TA3011143293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p 2

[By Salih Abu-Hamad]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chief Palestinian negotiator at the Cairo talks, yesterday accused Israel of placing obstacles to the achievement of a final agreement before 13 December in a bid to delay its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho at the date specified by the declaration of principles accord, signed on 13 September.

In an exclusive statement to our correspondent, Sha'th said that these obstacles raise doubts about Israel's

credibility in achieving peace not only with the Palestinian side, but also with the other Arab parties that have pending issues with Israel.

Sha'th expressed fear that the confidence-building process, launched after the signing of the accord between the Palestinians and the Israelis, might be exposed to danger if Israel insists on delaying its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on the date stipulated by the accord. Sha'th urged the Israelis to modify their approach during the few remaining days and present realistic proposals regarding the points under dispute—the crossings, the settlements, the boundary of Jericho, and the prisoners—so that matters would proceed accordingly.

Sha'th added: We will keep trying to liberate the land, free the prisoners, and assume power in order to build an independent state.

On his expectations from Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the region and the possibility that pressure would be applied on Israel, Sha'th said: I do not expect any pressure to be exerted on Israel as a result of this visit. Our agreement with it in Oslo was achieved far from any pressure, because Israel reckoned that it was in its interest to withdraw from the occupied territories and launch a peace process with its neighbors. The issue is the positions of Israel, which are based on its interests.

On the suspension of participation in the talks by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the negotiating delegation, Sha'th said: I am not aware of this. As a negotiating delegation, we work together based on a decision by the Palestinian leadership, which formed this delegation. Our suspension of the talks must be decided by this leadership. This is not a voluntary operation but one of adherence to the Palestinian leadership's orders.

Sha'th Notes 'Progress' at Talks

JN3011193393 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho talks, has said progress has been made in the Palestinian-Israeli talks, which resumed yesterday in Cairo and al-'Arish.

He said the Palestinian delegation presented an integrated plan for releasing Palestinian detainees and prisoners held in Israeli jails. He said it will emphasize this issue until a final solution is reached.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Rabin Envoys on 'Stalled' Talks

NC3011164093 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 30 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has met two envoys of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to discuss the stalled Israeli-Palestinian autonomy negotiations in Egypt, a Palestinian official said Tuesday [30 November].

The two envoys, accompanied by 'Arafat's chief adviser in the occupied territories Ahmad al-Tibi, were believed to be carrying a message for 'Arafat on a future meeting with Rabin.

'Arafat held talks with the officials late Monday ahead of a meeting of the Palestinian leadership to discuss the implementation of autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

'Arafat said Saturday the autonomy talks had reached an "impasse" because Israel was only offering an army redeployment instead of a withdrawal.

The talks have also stalled on control of the borders with Egypt and Jordan, and the size of the Jericho district to be handed over to the Palestinians, although the Palestinians have reported progress on the release of prisoners.

'Arafat Holds News Conference in Copenhagen

Warns Against Delayed Israeli Pullout

JN3011185293 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stated that he received a message from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin concerning Israeli troop withdrawal form the areas covered by Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

In a news conference he held today in the Danish capital, Copenhagen, on the conclusion of a Scandinavian tour, Brother Abu-'Ammar reiterated his warning against a delay in Israeli troop withdrawal from the Palestinian self-rule areas on the established date. Brother President Abu-'Ammar added: The success of this agreement hinges primarily on the intentions of the two parties and their interest in implementing its provisions [words indistinct].

Returns to Tunis

JN3011185993 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, today returned to Tunis from Denmark at the conclusion of a tour of Scandinavian countries. The tour took him to Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark.

During the tour, brother Abu-'Ammar held important talks with leaders of these states. The talks aimed at boosting the peace process and removing the obstacles facing it. The talks also discussed the economic aid these states can provide to build and reconstruct the occupied Palestinian territories.

'Arafat: Peace Accord 'Major Turning Point'

JN3011191293 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement marks a major turning point in the history of the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict and is the principal step toward achieving a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

This emerged in a speech by brother President Abu-'Ammar which he delivered in a festival held in Amman [as heard] on the international day for solidarity with our Palestinian people.

A festival marking the international day for solidarity with our Palestinian people was held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, yesterday. King Husayn delivered a speech opening the festival in which he stressed the Arab peoples' solidarity with the Palestinian people.

'Abd-al-Shafi Not To Attend Tunis Meetings

JN3011180193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi on an interview with Palestinian chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi; from the "With The Events" program; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Tomorrow, the Palestinian leadership will hold consultations in Tunis to assess the peace process. A number of Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip will attend the meetings. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will not go to Tunis to participate in these consultations. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said he believes the peace process and the Middle East as a whole are currently passing through a sensitive and critical phase.

"The issue of peace in the Middle East is passing through a sensitive and critical phase. First of all, I wish to say that peace can only be achieved on the basis of justice. As I have stated in the past, I believe there are some negative aspects and problems in this [Gaza-Jericho] agreement. These are probably the cause of the difficulties and stumbling in the negotiations. But, as is the case with all Palestinians, I am genuinely committed to the principle of peace. Now, this phase is the phase of discussing the interim period, in which the Palestinians will be in charge of running their daily life. This is a test of the Palestinian side; a test of the Palestinian side's competence and ability to run everyday life in a good, effective way. Therefore, I appeal to the leadership to choose people on the basis of their qualifications, and not on the basis of any political, personal, or other considerations."

We asked Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi if the PLO can, in light of the recent security developments in the Gaza Strip, control the Palestinian public during this (?critical) phase.

"I believe that this issue, control or lack of control, hinges on the credibility of what is going on; the credibility of this plan to reach a just peace that would realize the Palestinian rights, which are the same as the rights of any other people. If there was not such a credibility, the Palestinian public will not be controlled. The Palestinian individual is like any other individual—he has national goals. If he feels that these national objectives will not be realized by the [word indistinct] plan, then it will be difficult to control the Palestinian individual."

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi did not rule out the possibility of a plebiscite...[20-second break in transmission] "...in democratic procedures to achieve the principle of a collective leadership. Then, all other things may be considered, including the plebiscite. We do not wish to create more, unnecessary difficulties. But I say that the Palestinian public wishes to see the process marching in a direction that can achieve peace on the basis of justice."

Hamas Official Discusses Self-Rule

JN0112101193 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 30 Nov-6 Dec 93 pp 24, 17

[Interview with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chief of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, by Faraj Shalhub in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shalhub] After the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord, the opposition has launched intensive efforts to thwart it. Several formulas of joint action have been proposed by independents and by the 10 Palestinian factions. What happened to these efforts, especially in light of the recent disagreement with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]?

[Abu-Marzuq] We have to admit that it is difficult for the opposition in the Palestinian arena to foil the agreement singlehanded. This is because the agreement is the outcome of local, regional, and international factors. The agreement also has to do with certain gains and organizational issues. This has made it difficult to confront the agreement. In addition, certain countries could not stand against this agreement, despite the fact that it harms their private and regional interests. Despite this, these countries could not confront the agreement, let alone foil it. The agreement, however, carries the seeds of its own destruction. When we pit the agreement against the opposition, we can say that by capitalizing on the agreement's inherent weaknesses, the opposition can foil it if the time factor is well calculated.

As for the opposition's performance, regrettably the opposition forces got together to face the most serious agreement in the life of the Palestinian people after many

opposition forces have reached old age. These forces also have in mind maintaining a balance with each other. Add to this the private calculations restricting the activity of some factions. [passage omitted]

[Shalhub] What is the future plan of action then? Do you plan to approach independent figures in a bid to unify efforts, especially since the number of Palestinian figures that criticize the agreement is on the increase?

[Abu-Marzuq] As a matter of fact, one of the reasons for the delay in finding an appropriate framework is the surprise caused by the secret Oslo agreement. Some Arab states taking part in the settlement were surprised by the agreement, so it is not strange for the opposition to be surprised. This made it difficult to crystallize a position quickly.

The second point is that the agreement is still producing rapid developments. These developments have not reached a stable point yet inside Fatah or the Palestinian People's Party. These developments are still interacting. So adopting a stand toward these developments takes a longer time.

I am not pessimistic because there has been no framework for the opposition's unified action. It does not matter if the framework is not found, since there is a unified approach. A unified framework will be found, sooner of later.

[Shalhub] Can we say that the inability to crystallize a framework is due to Yasir 'Arafat's penetration of the opposition ranks, or, to be more accurate, some opposition factions, which has made these factions feel they will be threatened if they continue their violent opposition of the agreement?

[Abu-Marzuq] I do not believe there has been clear penetration of any faction. If there are some examples, then they do not affect the essence of opposition. Opposition is not one team. Some opponents proceed from the fact that they seek to improve the unjust terms of negotiations, and there is also a principled opposition which believes that all forms of negotiations with the enemy are rejected. Certainly, there is a difference between the two, but this does not mean that there is no true opposition to relinquishing rights.

[Shalhub] Can we say that the inability of the opposition to create a framework, and consequently, its weakness to foil the agreement, will become in favor of wagering on foiling it from within as a result of internal factors?

[Abu-Marzuq] In fact, we are not concerned over the inability of the opposition to do something tangible. I believe that those who signed the agreement will not be able to achieve the objectives of the agreement. So, their inability to restore Palestinian rights will be one of the most important factors for expanding popular support for the opposition. Basically we are wagering on the people toppling the agreement. The people, who have been fighting the occupation for tens of years, will resist the imposed solution when they feel that this solution is only a means of entrenching the occupation. Opposition to the agreement will increase with the passage of time after the implementation of the agreement on the ground. Everyone will then realize the threats this agreement poses to our present and future.

[Shalhub] In light of the concept of foiling the agreement based on the expansion of popular opposition with the passage of time, how do you assess the recent escalation of Hamas' military operations? Would it not be better to postpone the escalation to another stage? Does this escalation serve the strategy of weakening or strengthening the agreement by forcing Israel to hasten implementation of the agreement?

[Abu-Marzuq] I do not believe that there is any movement that works against itself or does something which harms its strategy. We believe that escalation is based on a realistic and future view of the conflict with the Zionist enemy. We know full well that such operations will not be able to liberate Palestine, but they are part of our duty to continue resistance to prevent the enemy from enjoying stability, and from believing that it has imposed its control over the land and the people. At the same time, we carry out these operations to defend the Arab nation, because if the enemy enjoys stability in Palestine, it will seek to expand in the region.

This escalation is a simple expression of the people's rejection of the current settlement, and of their refusal to live under occupation. This also means that if some people became tired of struggle and resistance, there are others who are ready to pursue jihad for the cause of God. Jihad is a must for every Palestinian. It is not some kind of entertainment or tactic.

[Shalhub] There have been reports about Hamas' participation in the self-rule elections. This has been attributed to Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Several opponents believe that participating in the elections would be better than boycotting them, especially since the participation of the opposition in power is better than isolating itself and leaving things to the settlement people to impose their control and determine the people's future. What is your comment?

[Abu-Marzuq] Regarding the legislative elections, I would like to clarify that the movement's stand over the past four years was clear. It is for participation in the elections. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin stressed this policy. There is nothing new in this. What is new is that this issue was mentioned within the context of self-rule elections, something which created confusion. In harmony with its stands, and proceeding from its concern about the Palestinian people's interests, the movement is not for participation in self- rule elections, for throughout the whole world, the rule is that the people should first elect those who represent them in resolving their issue. However, what is taking place is that a small weak group is negotiating with the enemy, which holds the reins of power, to reach a formula for an agreement to determine the Palestinian people's future, and then the two parties, Israel and the PLO, in accordance with this formula, will hold elections to elect persons to implement their

agreement. This is against the nature of things. The people should first elect their representatives, and then those representatives will determine how they will deal with the situation, and then they either accept or reject the agreement. Israel and the PLO negotiators should not impose on those elected an agreement to which they are not a party. We are not against participating in elections to elect representatives of the Palestinian people. However, we are against the attempts of Israel and its PLO negotiators to reach an illegal agreement on which no one was consulted, including the PLO's political and organizational frameworks and institutions, and then to commit the people to implementing this agreement. This is illogical and unfair. Such action, which shows indifference to the Palestinian people and their sacred cause, must be resisted. [passage omitted]

Damascus Urges Escalation of 'Armed Struggle'

JN0112081893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the peace process] have held a speech rally at the al-Yarmuk Camp, southern Damascus. Representatives of the 10 factions, a representative of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and representatives of nationalist and Islamic forces and figures in Lebanon, as well as a large crowd of Palestinians attended the rally.

The speeches delivered at the rally affirmed that the Palestine question and the Palestinian revolution are the pivot of pan-Arab struggle. The speeches also affirmed that the Arab-Zionist conflict is the chief concern of Arab generations struggling to establish justice. The speeches emphasized that the treasonous 'Arafat-Rabin agreement carries the seeds of its own destruction.

The speeches further called for the continuation and escalation of the intifadah and armed struggle and for boycotting the elections of the planned so-called self-rule council. This council aims to legitimize the treasonous 'Arafat-Rabin agreement.

PFLP-GC's Jibril: Peace Accord To Fail

JN0112080993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has affirmed that the agreement signed by 'Arafat with terrorist Rabin adds to the injustice against our Palestinian people and violates all resolutions of international legitimacy.

In an interview with a Norwegian press mission, Jibril said the agreement is rejected by the Palestinians. We challenge all democratic forces in the world to poll the Palestinian people and ask them if they approve of the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement.

Ahmad Jibril further said that what 'Arafat gained from this agreement was merely the post of an axis commander to suppress the Palestinian intifadah, which the Zionists have failed to end.

Jibril added that the agreement will not succeed, asserting that 'Arafat will not receive the funds he was promised because Western nations are suffering an economic crisis.

Qaddumi Addresses General Assembly on Refugees

LD0112114693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, said in his statement to the UN General Assembly that the Palestinian refugees—whose number reaches 2.8 million—represent half of our Palestinian people, one third of whom still live in camps in the occupied territories and the neighboring Arab countries. The solution to their problem must conform with international legitimacy, more specifically with Clause 11 of General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, which provided for the right of return or compensation for whoever did not want to return.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf called on the General Assembly to emphasize the principled stance of the international community toward these issues in the same strength with which it is supporting the peace process in the Middle East and the recent positive developments concerning it.

Abu-al-Lutf dealt with the issue of human rights for the Palestinian people under the occupation, and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the special committee on investigating Israeli practices and the international human rights organizations.

He said that the principles of international humanitarian law, in particular the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, human rights' covenants, and the Vienna human rights declaration, confirm that the human rights of the Palestinian man, and the accurate implementation of international standards in this sphere is a matter of principle which is not subject for negotiations and political changes.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf considered the implementation of the declaration of principles, especially the start of the Israeli withdrawal on 13 December as the first test of intentions and credibility of the political decision. At the same time he urged the need to achieve physical and tangible progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf said that though we express our satisfaction with the developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track, we emphasize the need to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, which is a condition for arriving at the final settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Resolution 425, and the other UN resolutions on the issue.

Algeria

National Dialogue Commission Spokesman Outlines Results

LD3011133793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The National Dialogue Commission met the national press today to outline the results of its contacts with the various political formations, associations, and organizations. [passage omitted]

Mr. Bensalah, the spokesman for the National Dialogue Commission, preferred to focus on the contents of the recent statement of the Higher State Council [HCE], because, as he said, the meetings are still continuing. In this context he presented the conclusion of the National Dialogue Commission, which focuses on two points. First, the need for the participation of all tendencies in the dialogue because, as he said, consensus can not be achieved while large groups are absent. Second, in order to get the political atmosphere moving and to create a climate of trust it is necessary to take specific measures, and the recent HCE statement focused on this. [passage omitted]

When we asked Mr. Bensalah if there was a response from the tendencies to which the HCE statement alluded, he replied: It is difficult to give a precise answer but we have noticed that some tendencies affiliated to these groups are looking with interest into the contents of the statement, and there are some signs that some of them have started to express this trend.

When reviewing the issue of some parties that have suspended their participation in the dialogue—here he means the Socialist Forces' Front and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria—the National Dialogue Commission spokesman said: We will welcome their return whenever they do so, but those who return should continue the dialogue, starting from the point it had reached.

MDA Suspends Participation in Dialogue

LD3011231993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] [Announcer] As the National Dialogue Commission continues its consultations with political parties and associations to prepare for the expected national seminar, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] has joined the Socialist Forces' Front and has decided, in its turn, to suspend its participation in the national dialogue. Further details are with Jamila Rouabhia:

[Rouabhia] In a statement the national radio received this evening, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria declared it preferred to pull out of the dialogue's sessions held the day before yesterday evening, convinced that the political problem remained. The Movement for Democracy in Algeria considered that discussion of the remaining items on the agenda relating to the organizational mechanisms of the interim stage and the national dialogue is not important enough to solve the current crisis. The Movement for Democracy in Algeria also considered the recent Higher State Council's statement, regarding expanding the dialogue, as being vague. According to the Movement, the statement left the dialogue process incapable of progressing vis-a-vis the expansion of participation to include representatives from the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front; thus, that problem remained unsolved.

The Movement for Democracy in Algeria considered that confining the dialogue within the framework of legal measures would lead to a dead end.

Four 'Terrorists' Killed by Security Forces

LD3011194893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The security services have let it be known today that they killed four terrorists in Ain Kerma, in Constantine Province, last Sunday following a search operation carried out by the security services during which they captured a quantity of weapons. Gendarme Houas Nabil was killed in that operation. [passage omitted]

The security services said yesterday that four citizens were killed in the center and east of the country on Saturday and Sunday, including the head of the Guigba municipality executive council in Ras El Aioun district, Batna Province and not, as wrongly mentioned, the mayor of Batna municipality who phoned us this evening.

The security services add that they have arrested 17 terrorists, including 13 in Tlemcen Province.

Hamas Assails 'Selective Treatment' in Kidnapping

LD0112093493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 30 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] has condemned the selective treatment in dealing with the kidnapping of Cheikh Mohamed Bouslimani, leader of the Reform and Guidance Society, in comparison with similar cases. In a statement published today, Hamas expressed its extreme regret over the state the Algerian people have reached. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Israeli Hand in Investment Projects Denied

NC3011161393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1402 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—The Ministry of Agriculture today denied an opposition newspaper's report that the ministry has allocated plots of land in Shamal

Sina' Governorate to foreign investors, including Israelis. A responsible source in the Ministry of Agriculture has stated that the newspaper's report is absolutely untrue. He added that the reports and information published by one of the opposition newspapers on the agricultural sector over the past few years have nothing to do with the facts.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1412 GMT on 30 November adds in a Cairo-datelined report: "Dr. Muhyi-al-Din al-Gharib, executive chairman of the General Investment Authority, has denied an opposition newspaper report that the authority approved a request by the Israeli group (Merhav), in conjunction with a private Egyptian firm, to set up an oil refinery in Alexandria's free zone. The newspaper quoted an official in the Egyptian firm as saying that the Egyptian-Israeli project is the best joint venture between Egyptian and Israeli businessmen, with a capital of $100 million."]

Minister Cited on Oil Exports to Israel

NC3011164193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi said that Egypt exports 2 million tons of oil annually to Israel at world market prices, in accordance with an agreement between the two sides. Israel, he pointed out, is regular in its payments for the oil imports.

Speaking at the People's Assembly's Industry Committee today, al-Banbi said that Egypt will intensify its exploration for natural gas in the upcoming phase.

Meanwhile, Dr. Wafiq Musharraf, deputy chairman of the Petroleum Agency, told the committee that Egypt's consumption of natural gas doubled over the past 10 years. Gas consumption has topped 28 percent of the total consumption of petroleum-related [as received] substances. He added that Egypt's reserves of natural gas stand at 26.5 trillion cubic feet. The current production of natural gas is 8.6 trillion cubic feet, but can be increased to 12.2 billion if additional facilities are built.

Dr. Musharraf said that 18 million pounds [$5 million] are needed to expand and improve the current production facilities. Liquidation processes need another 10 million pounds [$3 million]. He called on foreign companies to invest in exploration in Egypt, pointing out incentives in this regard.

The Industry Committee approved an agreement for oil exploration in the area southeast of Jabal al-Zayt in the Gulf of Suez. It also approved amendments to two exploration agreements in the al-Abyad and Matruh areas.

Egypt Air To Enforce Libya Sanctions 1 Dec

NC3011215293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] All world airline companies will tomorrow, Wednesday, begin enforcing the new sanctions that the Security Council has recently passed against Libya. No tickets issued by Libyan Arab Airlines will be transferable to another carrier.

The Jordanian airliner, Alia [Royal Jordanian], began enforcing the sanctions today. It rejected any documents issued by Libyan Arab Airlines and apologized for not accepting tickets issued by the company for three Pakistani passengers. It transferred the tickets to Egypt Air, which will begin implementing the Security Council resolutions tomorrow.

Arab League Proposed as Mediator in Libyan Crisis

NC2711001093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Nov 93 p 9

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "Libya and the Ideal Solution"]

[Text] The UN Security Council's new resolution tightening the sanctions against Libya, freezing its funds abroad, banning the sale of oil equipment to it, and tightening the loopholes in the air embargo imposed on it in 1973 and postponing its implementation until 1 December means that the West under U.S. leadership has decided to continue to discipline, isolate, and encircle the Libyan regime to have it submit completely to the demands of Western hegemony or be toppled and uprooted.

In the name of the international community and using the pretext of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, the Libyan people are facing the ugliest plot being hatched against them, a plot that affects their present and future and threatens even their livelihood. With the new economic sanctions, Libya will be a country besieged by every country and whoever tries to break this siege or circumvent it will be violating the international consensus!

Thus, Libya enters the circle of the hellish plot after Iraq. No one knows what the end will be to an incident that happened in the Scottish sky over the Lockerbie area in late 1988, when a Pan Am plane exploded, claiming the lives of several hundred innocent people. The crisis has been interacting and escalating since then and the Security Council issued Resolutions 731 and 748 and declared quite openly that the time had come for Libya to submit to the resolutions unconditionally and immediately.

The issue is this: Either the two Libyan defendants are extradited for trial in the United States or Britain with, of course, the resulting trial of the Libyan regime on the charge of committing the crime or heads will roll. If that happens, it does not matter whether these heads are the two defendants' or those of the entire Libyan people.

Only a few days remain until the Libyan people are put under siege. The situation is grave and the issue needs special treatment, both within the Libyan al-Jamahiriyah and within the framework of joint Arab action. The latest press and news agency reports say that Libya—through Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, the attorney defending the two Libyans suspected of blowing up the plane—has said that there is a willingness to have the two tried before a Swiss court. Diplomatic sources in Tripoli have reportedly said that the "General People's Congress"—theoretically the highest authority in the Libyan al-Jamahiriyah—will meet next month to discuss the crisis. The sources did not rule out the dismissal of Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir due to his failure to tackle the crisis and the appointment of a new Libyan personality capable of finding a way out of the crisis!

With increased talk about the new international sanctions to force Libya to extradite the two defendants, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, asked his view of the Lockerbie issue, announced several days ago: "Libya is not preoccupied with this issue." He also said: "We are mainly preoccupied with European Union and African unity!!"

Days later, the Libyan revolution leader announced on the eve of the Security Council resolution that the trial of the suspects in the American plane's explosion should be held as quickly as possible so as to lift the sanctions imposed on his country.

The colonel did not explain how the trial might be concluded as quickly as possible or where it should be held. In an interview with French television and according to a report by the LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY [JANA], he added: "The West does not want to reach a solution, but wants to waste time so as to continue the siege and harm the Libyan people." He said that Libya does not object to the two defendants' traveling, but it cannot force them to do so.

What does all this mean?!! How can an observer assess the official Libyan stance on this crisis that is suffocating the Libyan people and hitting them where it hurts—the economy and daily life? It even threatens their future. Are all the roads for saving Libya from its daily worsening predicament closed?

First, we admit we have no option but to stand with the Libyan people while they face this tribulation. We feel that a grave injustice has been inflicted on a fraternal Arab people and if a lengthy crisis is not objectively, calmly, and quickly treated, then its bad consequences will not affect the Libyan people alone, but will spread to the neighboring Arab countries.

Based on an objective understanding of everything that is happening and everything that is being hatched against fraternal Libya, we make the following basic observations on Libya's handling of the crisis, that is, if indeed Libya is handling the crisis:

First, no one, in our Arab world or outside it, knows for sure which official body in the Libyan Jamahiriyah has the authority to deal with the crisis between Libya and the West. The Arab League, through its Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and its seven-member committee dealing with the crisis, has failed to find a single Libyan official quarter capable and authorized to make a final decision to solve this crisis. Is it the Foreign Ministry, the Justice Ministry, or the people's conferences? If it is the conferences, when do they meet and how are their decisions issued? Even if such decisions are issued, what body has the authority to implement them?

UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has also failed to contact any Libyan official with the authority to deal with this crisis. When he sent a special envoy to Tripoli to meet Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, he was told: The brother colonel is not responsible for dealing with this issue. He is not a president, but a commander of the Libyan revolution. You can contact the people's conferences and the Foreign Ministry!

Second, no one argues or denies that the fraternal Libyan people have the right to follow the political system they wish. But the most important duty of the Libyan leadership is to establish the official channels and bodies that have the authority to address and deal with the world, so there will be no confusion and people will not be puzzled by such statements as "Libya calls for the need to speed up the trial of those accused in the Lockerbie case," "the Libyan state does not object to the accused going abroad for trial," "the decision is up to the two accused," or "the Libyan state cannot force the accused to travel abroad!!"

We are dealing with a complex and extremely sensitive issue. The cards have been mixed up, interests have intermingled, and signs of danger threatening a fraternal Arab people are on the horizon.

For the 100th time we say that the Libyan people, with their resources and future, are facing the most difficult moments. We can find no one to address other than brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Libyan revolution and the man who devoted his life to Arab causes, liberation, and unity, has the authority to resolve this thorny issue. If surrendering the two accused Libyans for trial in the United States or Britain affects the sovereignty of the Libyan state, which is true; if the UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented, which is also true; and if confidence no longer exists between the Libyan regime and the three Western states that are the main parties in the crisis and the situation cannot be mended, we tell the brother colonel, based on our national principles and our faith in joint Arab action, to turn it over to the Arab League secretary general and give Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid complete authority to deal with the crisis, ensuring Libya's—its people, government, and regime—dignity, independence, and sovereignty, the implementation of international legitimacy's resolutions, and a comprehensive Arab solution.

This will be the way out of a conspiracy that is being hatched against a fraternal Arab people and this, in our opinion, is the appropriate solution for all the parties.

Afghan President's Visit Linked to 'Abd-al-Rahman

NC3011203493 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 19 Nov 93 p 19

[From "AL-'AHD Bag" feature]

[Text] Diplomatic sources told AL-'AHD that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's visit to Egypt has something to do with the issue of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who has been detained in the United States for several months.

The sources told AL-'AHD that Rabbani and Egyptian officials discussed the possibility of Egypt supplying him with weapons in exchange for curbing the activity of the "Afghan Arabs" in regions under the control of the Jamiat-i-Islami.

Editorial Urges Iraq To Cease 'Provocations'

NC3011200393 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 24 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraq and the String of Actions Deepening the Bitterness"]

[Text] No one knows for how long this Iraqi string of actions will continue, actions that deepen the bitterness in the Gulf region and impede serious Arab efforts made by Egypt and other Arab parties to heal the rift in the Arab ranks. This rift was caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1991 and by the resultant consequences known to everyone, that culminated in Iraq's political, economic, and military defeat. No one benefited from this other than those parties that are eager to see the Arab divisions continue and want to deepen the inter-Arab infighting and ensure the disappearance of Arabism from the chart of the political concepts of the present and future.

Hundreds of Iraqis violated Kuwait's borders twice last week and destroyed some of the installations erected on Kuwaiti territory. These actions were part of the Iraqi actions to deepen the bitterness in the Gulf. Iraq also persists in saying that it is not holding any Kuwaiti prisoners and that Kuwait's claims in this respect are baseless, despite the existence of much evidence that confirms that a number of missing Kuwaitis are prisoners in Baghdad and have been so since the Iraqi invasion. These reckless Iraqi actions were a new opportunity seized by the Security Council to renew its refusal to lift the international sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people. The Security Council issued a statement holding Baghdad responsible for the violation of the Kuwaiti borders and expressed its deep regret over these incidents, regarding them as a violation of Security Council Resolution 687. It called on Iraq to take all the necessary measures to prevent a repetition of these violations.

The statement also called on Baghdad to respect its commitments according to Resolution 687 on ensuring the safety of the borders and also Resolution 833 which deals with the delineation of the borders between Iraq and Kuwait and to respect the principle of maintaining Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity and not to violate its borders in any form whatsoever.

It is clear that Iraq, which is carrying out these strange provocations against Kuwait, is seeking in any way it can to placate the Western countries and gain their favor, but all in vain. Iraqi Vice President Tariq 'Aziz [title as published] travelled to New York and met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the ambassadors of France, China, Russia, Pakistan, and Djibouti. 'Aziz also met with Sir David Hannay, Britain's UN ambassador, the day before yesterday. That was the first official meeting between a British official and an Iraqi one since the Gulf War. Sources said that the meeting dealt with the fate of three Britons detained in Baghdad.

The sources added that 'Aziz is seeking a dialogue with the Security Council's permanent members. This might be nice and might be something that Iraq must do to restore the international community's confidence in it. But would be much better if it worked to restore our confidence in it, that is, Iraq's Arab neighbors who were the first victims of the Iraqi mistake: the Kuwaitis, Saudis, and the other Gulf countries.

If Iraq is really serious in its effort to clear the Arab air and to respond to the efforts made in this direction by the Arab League, Egypt, and other Arab countries that are faithful to the issue of Arab solidarity, then it is must cease its provocations of the Gulf states and confirm in a way that leaves no doubts that it is complying with the rules of international and regional legitimacy instead of continuing its string of actions that deepen the bitterness in the Gulf.

Pope Receives Foreign Minister Musa

NC3011134193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Rome, 30 Nov (MENA)—Pope John Paul II today received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is visiting Italy to attend the meetings of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE]. During the meeting, they reviewed the peace efforts in the Middle East and the Vatican's role in promoting these efforts, considering that the negotiating parties hold the pope in great esteem.

The pope praised Egypt's role in this respect. They also discussed Bosnia-Herzegovina and stressed the need to condemn the policy of ethnic cleansing and to end human rights violations. They also exchanged views on international issues of common interest.

Arriving in Rome, Minister Musa met with Bishop Tauran, secretary for relations with states. Musa also

met Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. They exchanged views on the southern Mediterranean states' relations with the CSCE and what the European states in the Mediterranean could to bolster this relationship through the Mediterranean Forum, which President Mubarak proposed to consolidate links and promote understanding among the region's countries.

Musa Receives Sudan Message on Bilateral Issues

NC2811195993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received a message from his Sudanese counterpart, Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, during a meeting he had tonight with Sudanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Izz-al-Din Hamid.

Following the meeting, the Sudanese ambassador said that this message falls within the framework of the exchange of information and consultations on matters that concern the two countries, including the reasons for the present tension between them, and the best way for handling such issues in order to prepare the right atmosphere for beneficial action that is in the two fraternal people's interest.

Ambassador 'Izz-al-Din Hamid expressed the hope that the coming days will see progress in the right direction in the two countries' relations.

Asked about the two foreign ministers' meeting, the Sudanese ambassador said that consultations are under way to set a date for the meeting.

Eritrean Interior Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2711083693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Eritrean Interior Minister Ali Sayyid Abdallah arrived in Cairo this morning with a high-ranking delegation comprising of the chief of staff and an assistant foreign minister, on a visit of a few days to Egypt.

During the visit, the Eritrean delegation will hold talks with senior Foreign Ministry officials on bilateral ties and the situation in the Horn of Africa. Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at and the Eritrean ambassador to Cairo met the delegation at the airport.

European Bank To Extend $140 Million Loan

NC3011124693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—The European Investment Bank has agreed to extend a soft-term $140 million loan to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to finance projects in the ministry's current five-year plan. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Government Pressure on Foreign Media

NC3011172493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Paris, 30 Nov (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has emphasized that there is no truth to the false claims by the society that calls itself the "Human Rights Group in Egypt" [jama'at huquq al-insan fi misr] that there is government intervention and pressure on Egyptians working for foreign media organizations. He said these allegations are absolutely untrue.

Al-Sharif made these remarks in response to a question during a meeting with some Arab and foreign journalists in Paris today. A foreign news agency, citing an Egyptian human rights group, reported that some Egyptians working for foreign entities had come under pressure by Egypt. The information minister noted that the falsehood of these allegations is proven by the fact that the foreign press publishes reports that may not reflect the real truth in Egypt. These reports, he added, are written by Egyptians who work for these entities and in many cases they view matters one- sidedly.

Al-Sharif stressed that those working for these foreign papers have never been pressured, despite the fact that some of them are not members of the Egyptian Journalists Association. He added: If the Egyptians have a right to write freely, the officials in charge of foreign media have a right to have a debate with them and explain the facts to them, and this dialogue does not represent any kind of pressure, except in the eyes of those who call themselves the "Human Rights Group in Egypt." Al-Sharif added: One of the first rights in the media is to state the facts as they are, whether negative or positive, and this is the main duty of writers.

Regarding reports about freedom of opinion and freedom of expression in Egypt, the information minister stressed that this freedom in Egypt is a reality that can be sensed by the Egyptian, Arab, and international communities and is exclusive to Egypt, which makes President Husni Mubarak's era stand out. He noted that this freedom is guaranteed by the Constitution and the law. He referred in this respect to the unlimited and unprecedented freedom enjoyed by the national and partisan papers.

In response to a question on censoring some issues of foreign publications, the information minister said that it is the state's right to protect society, a standard procedure applicable in all countries when it comes to subjects that do not conform to society's values. The information minister referred in this regard to papers that contain articles and pictures dealing explicitly with homosexuality, that write on divine religions in a disdainful or harmful way, and use obscene language or inappropriate caricatures to comment on public figures.

Defendant in Murder Case Receives Death Sentence

NC0112114393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court in Cairo today sentenced to death 'Abd-al-Shafi Ramadan, the main defendant in the case of the assassination of Dr. Faraj Fudah. The court postponed its verdict on the remaining defendants until 30 December.

A total of 13 defendants stand accused in the case. The court noted that the second defendant, Ashraf Sayyid Ibrahim, has already been executed in accordance with the sentence of the Supreme Military Court for his participation in the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Praises Clinton Statement on Rushdie

LD0112104293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Nov (JANA)—U.S. President Bill Clinton has categorically rejected the content of Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*. The U.S. President added at the White House last night, in an interview with the U.S. Cable News Network [CNN], that he has been studying the character of Islam for 20 years, that he respects it very much, and that he respects Islamic civilization and culture. The U.S. President asserted, moreover, that he does not feel any respect for those who have been harming the image of the [Islamic] faith, and he dwelt on his recent meeting with Salman Rushdie. President Clinton expressed, however, his hope that his meeting with Rushdie will not be misunderstood.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the World Islamic People's leaderships, has praised the statements of U.S. President Clinton. He added, in a statement to the Jamahiriyah News Agency [JANA], that U.S. President Clinton has complied with the statement of the World Islamic People's leaderships and agreed with us that one should judge the book and not the person; he condemned the book and its contents.

He added: I hope that this will be a step toward a decision not to reprint the book and to eliminate the existing copies of such a book. This would be the right solution. What is warranted is not the killing of the author but the elimination of the book itself and a decision not to publish it, because the publication of such a book is a sedition between Islam and Christianity which Muslim people can do without.

The brother colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the World Islamic People's Leaderships, has already made a statement to JANA in which he said: ...In view of the great pressure by all the sections of the World Islamic People's Leaderships and the amount of individual contacts and other pressure on the continued meetings between the governments of Christian states and the author of the *Satanic Verses* on the eve of reprinting the aforesaid book by the publishing houses of Christian states and my own reading of a summary of the book, I came to the conclusion that such a publication is one of the most disgraceful and shameless works against the Prophet of Islam—the last Messenger—and against the people of the [prophet's] house about whom God sayeth: "People of the House, God only desires to put away from you abomination and to cleanse you."

Nonetheless, the aforementioned author portrayed the Prophet of Islam as a drunkard and an adulterer and painted the Holy House as one of Mecca's brothels, depicting the Prophet as the manager of such a brothel and portraying the Mothers of the Faithful [the Prophet's wives] as members of such a brothel and the Koran as a fake book.

The brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi added in his statement saying: As far as I am concerned I do not demand the execution of the author of such a book; Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, delivered [fatiya] a legal opinion on such a matter. Nevertheless, what I am asking for is the elimination of the book itself. Furthermore, the encouragement of the heads of state of Christian countries for the author and permission given to their publishing houses to reprint such a shameless book is viewed as an approval and an encouragement on their part for the book's content against the Prophet of Islam, against Islam, against the Koran and against the Prophet's Holy House.

Such public meetings with the aforesaid author and such public encouragement for him on the part of the Christian states are viewed, furthermore, as the biggest public humiliation for the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd] and for the shaykh of al-Azhar [in Cairo] before anyone else. It is meant to demonstrate their inability to carry out their Islamic duties, which they have bestowed upon themselves, unless they are really happy with the content of such a book.

Al-Bishari Denies Lockerbie Extraditions

NC0112081793 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 29

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, permanent representative to the Arab League, by Muhammad Rif'at; place and date not given]

[Text] [Rif'at] Following UN Security Council Resolution 883 upgrading the sanctions on Libya, what scenario do you envision for resolving Libya's crisis with the West in the coming period?

[Al-Bishari] The so-called Lockerbie crisis is not about the crash of two planes and the demand for the trial of the suspects. From the start we have stated that the crash of these two planes is a crime that we have denounced.

We have also expressed our sympathy with the families of the victims. These victims are completely innocent just as those who were killed in the crash of the Libyan plane shot down by Israel in 1972 or the plane that crashed because of the lack of maintenance and the shortage of spare parts as a result of UN Security Council Resolution 748 issued in 1992 imposing an air embargo on Libya. From the start we have stated that we support a just and fair trial of the two suspects so that the truth will become known and the culprits punished.

However, if we take a closer look, we will find it is a political problem dressed in a legal gown. The issue concerns Libya's role in its sphere: the Palestinian issue, Arab unity, oil, stability, extremism, the Arab boycott of Israel, and the end of the Cold War. These are the real reasons for the fabrication of the Lockerbie crisis. The issue is essentially political and will only be solved by political means.

[Rif'at] After Switzerland declined to try the two suspects in a Swiss court, what is the alternative venue the Libyan Government intends to propose for the trial of the two suspects?

[Al-Bishari] The Libyan Government has made no offers to try the suspects outside Libya. Those who have made such offers are the two suspects themselves and their lawyers. Libyan law does not permit the extradition of Libyan citizens to a foreign country, especially to states that have no diplomatic relations or extradition treaties with Libya, because this will be considered an infringement of Libyan sovereignty. Nevertheless, why don't they start a trial if they possess hard evidence, especially as the laws allow them to hold a trial of the suspects in absentia. As I have told you, the issue is basically political.

[Rif'at] You have used the economic card as a kind of pressure to end the crisis. You have signed contracts with U.S., British, and French companies. What is the fate of these contracts? What new bargaining chip will you use following the failure of the economic card?

[Al-Bishari] The world is suffering from a serious economic recession. There is recession in Europe. They will be the beneficiaries of any contracts they sign with us. We can purchase any commodity from any country in the world as long as we have the liquidity. The market is open for all. We do not need to make bargains. We are a small country with a population of not more than 4 million. Our needs are limited and we are not accustomed to a life with many luxuries. Therefore, no one can twist our arms or force us to comply and surrender. We will not deliver the suspects to them even if they hit us with an atomic bomb.

[Rif'at] In a press statement, you have stated that you expect Arab reconciliation to take place soon. On what basis do you expect this?

[Al-Bishari] Arab reconciliation will take place because the Arabs need it. Regrettably, other parties outside the Arab world want this reconciliation to take place to serve their own interests.

[Rif'at] There is a lot of talk nowadays about the new Middle East market. What is Libya's stand on this issue?

[Al-Bishari] A Middle East market between what countries? However, let us wait and see what will happen. Afterward, we will define our stand.

Jallud Reportedly Under 'House Arrest'

NC0112082593 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 9

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] AL-SHIRA' has learned that 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud has been stripped of all his powers. He has been banned from communicating with military commanders and has been placed under virtual house arrest.

Libyan sources have stated that there are efforts to mediate between al-Qadhdhafi and Jallud, who is considered to be the number-two man in Libya. These sources have emphasized that Jallud still refuses to hand over the two Lockerbie suspects or to make any concessions to the West. However, the main differences between the two men revolve around Jallud's rejection of the regime's extravagant spending.

Mauritania

Violent Incidents Linked With Fundamentalism

AB3011123993 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 29 Nov 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] An incident at an independence day celebration in Mauritania has ended with the arrest of a man suspected of trying to kill two government ministers. It happened late on Saturday [27 November] night, and rumors are rife about exactly what was behind it as Shaykh Bekaye reports in this fax from Nouakchott.

[read by announcer] Eye witnesses said a young man invaded a public hall where a Mauritanian independence celebration was due to be held. He pulled out a gun and demanded: Where is the minister? Bystanders attacked the young man to try to prevent him firing his weapon but he managed to fire off two rounds, injuring a policemen. The ministers of communication, and Islamic orientation were present in the hall along with members of the public. Since there has been no official explanation, there was wide speculation that the incident may have been part of a plot organized by Islamic fundamentalists. Such speculation has been fueled by the fact that the assailant chanted Islamic slogans such as Allahouakhbar, or God is great.

This is also the second violent incident of this nature in the last two months. Another young man recently attacked a French church in the capital, Nouakchott, wounding two clergymen. At the time, the government said the man was insane but sources say he has links with Islamic fundamentalists. Many observers say the incidents suggest there is a third force which is planning an Islamic confrontation with the government. The Mauritanian authorities have recently repatriated hundreds of people from the Maghreb and Pakistan suspected to be Islamic fundamentalists. A ministerial committee has also been formed to follow the supposed fundamentalist threat.

President Delivers Independence Anniversary Address

AB3011112393 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Address by President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to mark the 33d independence anniversary in Nouakchott on 28 November—recorded, in Arabic with superimposed translation into French]

[Text] Mauritanian men and women, dear compatriots: Today we celebrate the 33d anniversary of our national independence, a celebration of honor, pride, and dignity. On this happy occasion, I sincerely congratulate the entire people. We are celebrating this anniversary for the second time as a law-abiding state with democratic institutions.

Today, we are continuing our efforts to entrench and consolidate our pluralistic system for more freedom. In this regard, people continue to create parties, professional bodies, and associations which enable the entire society to express itself through modern means as demanded by a modern state. Shortly, citizens of our regional capitals, towns, villages, and settlements will be given the opportunity to freely elect from party lists those to whom they will assign the management of their municipal affairs.

Meanwhile, the inauguration of major projects and programs for true regional development—such as the electrification of the country's major urban centers and water supply as well as other projects in the sectors of modern telecommunications, road, and other infrastructure—are some aspects of the new era that we have initiated, that is an era of democracy and construction.

Dear compatriots, the past years were marked by substantial progress in combating a certain mentality hindering our people's progress on the path to construction and development. We must persevere on this path, while striving responsibly and relentlessly to acquire science and knowledge, which constitute the best guarantee for increased production and a brilliant future.

The society we seek to build is one of coherence and solidarity, of unity for the fulfillment of common objectives and interests. In this regard, each of us must be aware of his rights and duties and refrain from doing anything contrary to this policy.

Dear compatriots, God has provided us with security, peace, and stability in an explosive world full of dangers. He has granted us His mercy after the dreadful years of drought. Let us not forget to thank Him.

President Receives Saharan Envoy

LD0112110993 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency President of the Republic Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya today received Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed, Saharan justice minister and special envoy of Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz to his excellency the president. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the national press, the Saharan envoy pointed out that the message is connected with bilateral relations and the situation in the region. He said:

[Begin Ould Ahmed recording] I have come as an envoy from Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz with a message for His Excellency President Maaouya Sid Ahmed Taya on the development of the Saharan issues, the UN peace process, and the links between the two peoples and governments.

Japan Offers Subsidy To Reduce Debt Burden

LD0112113093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The Japanese Government has offered our country a subsidy amounting to 141,570,000 Japanese yen to help reduce the debt burden.

The agreement in connection with this assistance was signed by our ambassador in Dakar, Mahfoud Ould Daddah [as heard], and Takeshi Nakamura, Japanese ambassador accredited to our country [as heard] and resident in the Senegalese capital.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Optimistic Over IGADD Initiative

EA3011200093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has expressed his hope that the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states' initiative will be able to find a solution to the southern Sudan problem. He said the success of this initiative is likely to prove to the world Africa's ability to solve its internal problems without foreign interference. The president of the Republic was speaking in an interview with the chief editor of the Kenyan magazine, SOCIETY, which is published in Nairobi.

His excellency reviewed the government's efforts to establish peace in the country. The meeting also dealt with the political system in Sudan. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed that the present system in Sudan is among the most successful systems which is in conformity with the African continent [as heard]. He said this system is regarded as a model of nonparty democracy [as heard].

Al-Bashir Calls Southern Conflict 'Political War'

EA3011200593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has reviewed the earnest steps taken by the revolution to establish peace in the south and the efforts exerted for construction and development. He said when he was meeting officers, NCOs and soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Al-Qadarif that the war in the south is a political war and that it did not get attention previously.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir dealt with the role of the American Administration in hampering peace efforts in the south. His Excellency lauded the role of the Armed Forces in this respect.

On the other hand, his excellency explained that Sudan is working to exploit its own resources to get out from economic straits by the advent of 1995. He pointed to the achievement that has been made by extracting Sudanese petroleum and to an agreement with a Russian company for building the Al-Hamdab Dam to provide power.

South African Delegation Meets Officials

Meets Finance Minister

EA3011183093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Nov (SUNA)—Finance Minister Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad affirmed the provision of capabilities of the economic and investment cooperation between Sudan and South Africa in the framework of the importance of the cooperation among African states. The minister said during his meeting with the visiting economic delegation of South Africa that South Africa possesses huge economic potential and cooperation between Sudan and South Africa would be developed after the completion of election there. The ministry said that Sudan has opened last October a commercial office in South Africa to promote the exchange and profit between the two countries.

It is worth mentioning that the delegation of South Africa arrived here Sunday [28 November] on an official visit to Sudan. The delegation will get acquainted with economic activities in the federal capital and other states.

Foreign Minister Comments

EA3011140593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A South African delegation is currently visiting Sudan in line with joint cooperation between the two countries. The visit is aimed at discussing different issues in order to develop all aspects of relations between the two countries. The delegation has met Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, who said the following about the meeting:

[Begin recording] We have met the visiting delegation from the Republic of South Africa [RSA], from the RSA Foreign Ministry as well as South African businessmen. This visit comes [words indistinct], as we consider South Africa to be passing through a new stage [words indistinct] the racial relations inside that state leading to its isolation from the international community. Now RSA has regained its status in the international community particularly within Africa. RSA has great potential, skills, and technology qualifying it to play an important role in the cause of peace and development in Africa. [passage omitted]

We established trade relations with Pretoria not long ago. This visit comes to consolidate joint efforts in the interest of the two countries. We have great hopes for this visit as it will give the delegation the opportunity to learn about Sudan and its great potential and it can lead to joint activity in the agricultural, industrial, and educational fields and so on. This visit should result in good and ample benefits for the two countries, and we hope it will lead to increased and fruitful activity as a contribution to (?peace). [end recording]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Comments on Fundamentalism, Peace Process

LD2911163793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali raised a number of national political, social, and economic issues in a statement to the Italian News Agency. He also talked about the situation in the Middle East and future Mediterranean relations. [Passage omitted]

On the subject of fundamentalism and its spread in some countries, the head of state said that this phenomenon is quite alien to the nature and the values of the Islamic religion. It is an attempt to seize power by violent and terrorist means while religion is used as a cover. The Tunisian people with all their potential have rejected this phenomenon.

In his talks about the role that Tunisia has played in facilitating the dialogue between the PLO and Israel, which led to the reciprocal recognition of the two sides, the head of state affirmed that Tunisia has never

wavered in providing its support for all the efforts made to achieve a comprehensive and permanent settlement of the Middle East issue on the basis of international legitimacy. He added that Tunisia has always responded to every request from the Palestinian leaders to bring Tunisia in to any specific action in favor of peace. From this premise, Tunisia has been among the first to contribute to the efforts that gave the peace process at the Madrid conference a push forward and ended with the PLO and Israel signing the agreement.

On the subject of building the Arab Maghreb, the head of state stressed that this process continues in the shadow of confidence and tranquillity, and away from the spotlights. He stressed that the process has entered the stage of establishing the institutions and the machinery necessary for running this regional grouping.

He affirmed that the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] is considered by all Maghreb leaders as an irrevocable choice and that the difficulties some AMU countries have been encountering would not affect the collective will in making the building of the AMU a success. [Passage omitted]

Prime Minister Addresses Deputies on State Budget

LD3011225993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Under the chairmanship of Speaker Habib Boulares, and in the presence of head of government Hamed Karoui, members of the government and representatives of national and foreign media, the Chamber of Deputies began its debate on the draft general budget of the state and economic balance [al-mizan al-iqtisadi] for 1994.

As instructed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Prime Minister Hamed Karoui presented the government's statement on those two bills. He analyzed the most important features of the development model, and the concern in the state general budget to facilitate further consolidation of the bases of long-term development, and to steer the development process toward further progress and advancement.

Then, the chamber's rapporteur-general read out the draft 1994 general budget of the state and economic balance. We shall now contact the news team at the Chamber of Deputies to give us more details of the event.

[Unidentified Correspondent] The Chamber of Deputies today began to look into the draft economic balance and the state general budget for 1994. The bill was presented by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. [passage omitted]

We shall now return to the outline of the draft economic balance and the state general budget for 1994. Included in the outline was that the draft budget was based on possible developments in economic activity during 1993 and 1994, and the need to mobilize the resources required to ensure the existence of all the requirements in the sphere of the options of the Eighth [Development] Plan, aimed at restricting the net deficit in next year's budget to about 1.9 percent of the gross national product, compared to 2.3 per cent in 1993.

The 1994 state budget revenue has been set at 5.5 million dinars; an estimated increase of 565 million dinars. Hamed Karoui said that the submission of the bill constituted an excellent opportunity for a review of the situation in all sectors, the crystallization of the state's options and bearings, an assessment of the total gains and achievements, and a study of the prospects for development work. [passage omitted]

Hamed Karoui said that the draft economic balance was comprehensive and varied and focussed on economic estimates and expectations for the coming year, as well as an in-depth analysis of the various policies and programs which [the government] was intending to follow. He said that the Tunisian economy had shown pleasing results with regard to production, employment, price control, and the maintenance of a sound internal financial balance, while foreign payments had been subject to some pressures that were basically due to the deteriorating world situation.

Regarding employment, the prime minister said that it was expected that job creation would provide 106,000 [as heard] new positions in nonagricultural sectors. On price control, [he said] that the increase was limited to 5.5 percent in 1992 and would not be more than 4.5 percent in 1993. [passage omitted]

Hamed Karoui said that Tunisia was striving to achieve a GDP growth rate estimated at 6.1 percent at fixed prices, that would bolster the gains made in order to make further progress to respond sufficiently to national aspirations in the field of promoting employment and improving conditions of life. [passage omitted]

Hamed Karoui emphasized that the social aspect had been given consideration because the ministries of a social nature would receive almost 47.5 percent of total expenditures. Significant allocations, representing 63 percent of the total public funds, had been made for transfers for the benefit of certain disadvantaged social groups. Thirty million dinars had been allocated for the National [Social] Security Fund, and 230 million dinars to subsidize the prices of certain basic commodities and raise the grants to needy families, which will reach almost 35 million dinars. In addition, 53 million dinars will be allocated for social [public] housing, and 4.2 million dinars for the handicapped.

Hamed Karoui pointed out, furthermore, that next year would witness the liberalization of all imports, except subsidized commodities, through passage of a bill to regulate foreign trade and lay down the necessary measures for guaranteeing fair competition. Most prices would be freed at the production level except subsidized commodities, he added. [Next year would also witness] the introduction of the investment bill, concentrating on

taxation and the liberation of private initiative; such a bill would, however, become law in 1994, he said.

Next year would also witness the implementation of the farming strategy by reforming farming structures and restructuring state land, in addition to addressing problems surrounding farming loans and distribution channels.

Hamed Karoui pointed out that efforts will be directed toward social affairs, after reaching a tripartite [government, workers, and employers] agreement, in order to implement an ambitious program in the spheres of social security, illiteracy, and the fight against poverty, and to continue with fundamental reforms in the fields of education, higher education, training, and health.

The prime minister pointed out, furthermore, that the national program for the fight against illiteracy would get underway from next year and that social strata on a low income would benefit from special care, either through direct aid or plans to improve living conditions. [passage omitted]

Hamed Karoui dwelt upon Tunisia's foreign policy, pointing out that such a policy had been drawn up in accordance with the country's vital interests, and in order to promote relations of cooperation with all brothers and friends, to serve universal values, and to support the causes of justice, right, and peace in accordance with international charters and international law. [passage omitted]

The Chamber of Deputies will be resuming its proceedings this afternoon for a general debate on the government statement.

Gulf States Call on Iran To Quit Disputed Islands

NC3011155093 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Nov 30 (AFP)—Iran must relinquish three strategic Gulf islands or agree to international arbitration to resolve its territorial dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a senior Gulf official told the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH Tuesday [30 November].

Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, Secretary General of the six- nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), said the UAE maintained historic links with Iran, but "this does not mean that we will remain silent toward the usurpation of our rights by the (former) Shah's regime."

"We hope Iran will take an initiative to correct what the Shah's regime did and return rights to their owners, or agree to refer the issue to an international court."

It is the first time a Gulf official has openly proposed international arbitration to resolve the dispute over the three islands—Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb.

The long-standing dispute, which erupted again in 1992, has reversed an improvement in Iran's ties with the GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE.

Negotiations between the UAE and Iran in Abu Dhabi last year collapsed after Tehran refused to discuss the Tunbs. They were to resume in September but were called off by the UAE in protest at new Iranian comments reasserting sovereignty over the islands, which lie near the vital Straits of Hormuz.

Abu Musa, shared by the two sides under a 1971 British-brokered pact, is claimed by al-Shariqah, while the Tunbs are claimed by Ra's al-Khaymah, Shaykh Fahim's home town.

Yemen

Salih Intervenes on Behalf of U.S. Hostage

Abductors' Demands Detailed

NC0112071493 Paris AFP in English 0102 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 1 (AFP)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih intervened late Tuesday to seek the release of a U.S. diplomat kidnapped last week by Yemeni tribesmen, the Interior Ministry said, as other sources reported troops had massed around the abductors' stronghold.

Salih and Parliamentary Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar were trying to broker the release of Haynes Mahoney with leaders of the Jahm tribe, which is holding the diplomat in the remote mountainous area of the same name 70 kilometres (40 miles) east of the Yemeni capital.

Al-Ahmar heads the powerful Hashed clan.

Interior Minister Muhammad Salim al-Mutawakkil told AFP the release of Mahoney, who heads the U.S. Information Service in Yemen, could occur "from one hour to the next."

Hours earlier in Washington, State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelley said the United States was very hopeful that Mahoney would be freed "very shortly."

Meanwhile well informed sources said a large contingent of Yemeni troops had late Tuesday encircled the region in which Mahoney, 44, is being held.

The leader of the Jahm tribe, Mubarak al-Zaydi, has demanded that, in exchange for the release of Mahoney, the Yemeni Government pay royalties on an oil pipeline that crosses the Ma'rib Province, in which Jahm is situated.

Al-Zaydi has also called for cash payments to 150 Ma'rib who were demobilised in 1983 after serving as members of Yemen's republican guard.

Al-Mutawakkil stressed that the Yemeni Government would not agree to the kidnappers' demands, adding that negotiations to secure Mahoney's release Monday had broken down at the last minute.

A Yemeni official had reported Monday that Mahoney had been freed and that Sanaa had accepted the abductors' demands.

Other sources said earlier Tuesday that the release had been held up because the government refused to allow the kidnappers to go unpunished, adding that the Jahm tribesmen were demanding a plane to fly them to a neighbouring country.

Captors Threaten To Kill Mahoney

NC0112123393 Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Gizamah, Yemen, Dec 1 (AFP)—A kidnapped U.S. diplomat is in good shape but his heavily-armed Yemeni captors have warned they would kill him if a rescue attempt was mounted.

"Any attempt to free the hostage by force would lead to his being killed," Shaykh Mubarak al-Zaydi, leader of the Jahm tribe holding Haynes Mahoney, told mediators on Tuesday.

Mahoney himself told a Yemeni journalist at a mountain hide-out in the village of Gizamah, some 70 kilometres (40 miles) east of Sanaa, that he was being well-treated.

"I am fine. My captors are treating me with impeccable hospitality," said the 44-year-old head of the U.S. Information Service attached to the American Embassy in Yemen.

Mahoney appeared to have lost weight but has received a bag of clothes and other supplies from the embassy.

An AFP correspondent was among four journalists who met his armed kidnappers in one of Shaykh al-Zaydi's homes, protected by the Jahm and allied tribesmen, some armed with rocket launchers.

The authorities had said the kidnappers were circled by security forces but there was no sign of the army or police around Gizamah.

"No representative of the government would dare come here," one of the abductors said. He said the nearest soldiers were at the Ma'rib garrison, dozens of kilometres away. [passage omitted]

YSP's Salim Salih: Federation 'Realistic Alternative'

PM0112103093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah report: "Salim Salih: Federation Alternative That Safeguards Yemen's Unity"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has said that "the YSP is making every effort to make a success of the meeting scheduled to be held today (Saturday) among representatives of the ruling coalition parties, opposition parties, and a number of national figures and forces to discuss the sound and practical solutions to and ways out of the political crisis in the country." He pointed out that "the 18 points proposed by the YSP in this connection concern the homeland, not the YSP as others say." On the federation formula he said that "the YSP has the willingness to adopt this alternative," which he described as "a realistic alternative that safeguards the rights of all parties and Yemen's unity and sovereignty."

Salim Salih told AL-HAYAH in Aden yesterday that "a meeting between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, will not take place until the 18 points concerning the homeland are implemented, the governorates are given their rights to local government, deteriorating economic conditions are tackled, the other issues are addressed in accordance with a specific timetable, and a new mechanism is found, different from the previous mechanism, which does not accommodate Yemen's entry into the 21st century."

He added that his "presence in Aden alongside YSP Secretary General al-Bid is not a seclusion, the objective is to work with the YSP leadership in Aden, which is carrying out its partisan and official duties normally."

Asked about the proposals inside and outside the country regarding a federal formula in Yemen, the YSP assistant secretary general and Presidential Council member said that "the YSP has the willingness to adopt this alternative (federation) as a realistic alternative that safeguards the rights of all parties and Yemen's unity and sovereignty." He stressed that "the YSP is not calling for separation. But failure to tackle the current crisis in a courageous spirit paves the way for separation." [passage omitted]

* National Assembly Elects Committee Members

94P50042A

[Editorial Report] Kuwait AL-WATAN on 27 October 1993 on pages 8, 10 and 11 and Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' on 2 November 1993 on pages 14-15 carry coverage of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's opening session on 26 October. Within this coverage, these publications mention the election of Assembly members to committee and other posts as follows:

Secretary of the National Assembly: Ahmad Ya'qub Baqir

Controller of the National Assembly: Salim 'Abdallah al-Hammad

Internal and Defense Affairs Committee: Chairman, 'Abbas Habib Munawir; Rapporteur, Talal Mubarak al-'Ayyar; 'Ayid 'Illush al-Mutayri; Rashid Salman al-Hubaydah; Muslih Humayjan al-'Azmi

Foreign Affairs Committee: Chairman, Jasim Hamad al-Saqr; Rapporteur, Dr. Nasir Jasim al-Sani'; 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Adasani; Talal Mubarak al-'Ayyar; Mubarak Nabih al-Khuraynij

Petitions and Complaints Committee: Chairman, Turki Muhammad al-'Azimi; Rapporteur, 'Adnan Sayyid 'Abd-al-Samad; Sa'd Bulayq al-'Azmi; 'Ayid 'Illush al-Mutayri; Hadi al-Huwaylah; Muhammad Khalaf Dahish al-Muhammal

Financial and Economic Committee: Chairman, Dr. Isma'il Khadir al-Shatti; Rapporteur, Mufarrij Nahar al-Sahl al-Mutayri; Fahd Duhaysan al-Mabi' al-'Azmi; Ahmad Muhammad al-Nassar; Ahmad Khalid al-Kulayb; Hamud Nasir al-Jabri; Dr. Nasir Jasim al-Sani'; Dr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'ij; 'Adnan Sayyid 'Abd-al-Samad

Legislative Affairs Committee: Chairman, Hamad 'Abdallah al-Ju'an; Rapporteur, Shari' al-'Ajami; Ahmad Ya'qub Baqir; 'Abdallah Yusuf al-Rumi; Dr. Ya'qub Muhammad 'Ali Hasan Hayati; Mashari Muhammad al-'Usaymi; Muhammad Dayfallah Sharar

Human Rights Committee: Chairman, Muhammad Sulayman al-Marshad; Rapporteur, Ahmad Muhammad al-Nassar; 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Adasani; Jamal Ahmad al-Kunduri; 'Abd-al-Muhsin Yusuf Jamal; Ahmad al-Khatib; Mubarak Fahd al-Duwaylah

Education, Culture, and Guidance Committee: Chairman, Dr. Nasir 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hasan Sarkhuh; Rapporteur, Jamal Ahmad al-Kunduri; Khalid al-'Udwah; Dr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'ij; Talal 'Uthman al-Sa'id

Committee to Respond to the Amiri Address: Dr. Nasir Jasim al-Sani', Jamal Ahmad al-Kunduri, Ahmad Nassar al-Shuray'an, 'Ali Salim Abu-Hadidah, Rashid Salman al-Hubaydah

Public Utilities Committee: 'Ali Salim Abu-Hadidah; Talal 'Uthman al-Sa'id; Muhammad Khalaf Dahish al-Muhammal; Khalid al-'Udwah; Muslih Humayjan al-'Azmi; Mubarak Nabih al-Khuraynij; Mubarak Fahd al-Duwaylah

Health, Social Affairs, and Labor Committee: 'Ali Salim Abu-Hadidah; Ahmad Khalid al-Kulayb; Dr. Ahmad al-Khatib; Sa'd Bulayq al-'Azmi; Salim 'Abdallah al-Hammad; Muhammad Dayfallah Sharar

AL-WATAN says that the elections of the chairmen and rapporteurs for the Health Committee, the Public Utilities Committee, and the Committee to Respond to the Amiri Address have been postponed.

Clinton Policy Toward Europe, Asia Seen Failing

JN0112115093 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 23 Nov 93 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "America: The Asian Game at the Moment of Collapse"]

[Text] The United States has once again proved it would betray friends before others. Yesterday's news carried to the world the greatest "warning" Western Europe has received since the end of World War II. The warning was made by the United States, Mexico, Canada, and the Pacific Ocean countries. The warning was not made in explicit words. However, the words were clear enough. U.S. experts have also confirmed the warning, saying that wobbly U.S. President Bill Clinton's shift toward enhancing U.S. ties with industrial Asian states and his acknowledgement that the world center has moved to eastern Asia is a warning to united Europe. It also constitutes direct pressure to force Europe to reverse its stands and accept U.S. trade conditions in the next GATT negotiations.

Europe has rejected the unfair U.S. conditions. These conditions, if accepted, will destroy European agriculture and weaken European industry. They will also guarantee that Europe will remain an obedient child to the United States. Europe, however, thinks it has grown older and should be treated as a peer.

When the pressures of wobbly Clinton failed, he resorted to the weapon of eastern Asia and the "Yellow Menace" to force Europe to comply.

What spoiled the game of wobbly Clinton is a deep feeling on the part of most Asian leaders who attended the Seattle summit that the United States is playing with fire and that it is setting the stage for economic and human massacres. The PRC, therefore, strongly and publicly rejected the policy of wobbly Clinton, especially his interference in the affairs of other states using the infamous slogan of human rights [writer uses Arabic word 'uquq, meaning ingratitude, rather than huquq, meaning rights].

History is like this. When tyrants rejoice thinking they have attained their aims, they suddenly discover they are falling into an abyss. The United States is now falling into the abyss.

U.S. Said Launching Anti-Iraq Campaign

JN3011160393 Baghdad INA in English 1335 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 30, INA—As soon as the UN announced that Iraq had agreed officially to UN long-term monitoring process over its mass destruction weapons, the main obstacle to ending the sanctions against Iraq, a slanderous campaign began by the U.S. and British media alleging that Iraq is still violating human rights in the south and in the north of the country, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said.

A paper article affirmed today that this of course is not the first time that these circles follow such a dubious path to divert world attention from Iraq's sincere efforts to fulfil its commitments to UN resolutions in order to end the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the sanctions. So instead of praising and welcoming Iraq's agreement to abide by all UN resolutions, the Voice of America started digging to bring out the usual dirt. The VOA claimed that the Iraqis in the south are subjected to human rights violations and those in the north are suffering from food shortages because the Iraqi Government does not send them their monthly rations.

The media circles that are concerned about the welfare of the Iraqis in the south and in the north should realize that their tricks can no more fool anybody and that the world has concrete evidence that all Iraqis are suffering from the sanctions and that the Iraqi Government is doing its utmost to allay its people's hardships.

The recent allegations that the Iraqi Army used chemical weapons against the people of the marshes in the south have been refuted by UN experts who recently concluded a field investigation task. The experts admitted that they had so far found no evidence of any chemical weapons used against the Iraqis. Furthermore, on the sidelines of meetings held between Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the UN officials in New York, UN chief Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the president of the Security Council and head of the UN Special Commission Rolf Ekeus have separately expressed satisfaction over Iraq's cooperation with the UN. Such satisfactions is in favour of Iraq and therefore the next step should be taken by the UN itself to lift the sanctions now that Iraq has met its obligations.

Hence any hostile propaganda campaign must fall on deaf ears because now the UN is satisfied with Iraq's commitments. Despite that it seems that the U.S. and British still have hidden aims against Iraq because they both keep on searching for excuses to prolong the sanctions. Until now, thousands of Iraqis especially children have died and thousands other are suffering from malnutrition due to medicine and food shortages. Still and despite knowing everything about the suffering of the Iraqis throughout the whole country, the U.S. and Britain launch one campaign after another to prevent lifting the sanctions. So now who is violating human rights?.

UN Envoy: Iraq May Accept Limited Oil Sales

JN0112075593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Iraq's UN ambassador has hinted that Baghdad might still be willing to accept United Nations resolutions for a limited oil sale under certain conditions.

Nizar Hamdun told New York oil analysts at a meeting that Iraq might be more willing to accept the limited oil

sale if it looked liked the Security Council did not lift sanctions on oil exports for nine months or a year from now.

Mr. Hamdun also indicated the UN terms were too stringent for limited oil sales, and said conditions could have to be modified or changed.

The Iraqi official said if sanctions were lifted Iraq could immediately export around 1 million barrels per day, assuming it could export through southern ports.

Opposition: Baghdad About To Take 'Crucial Step'

PM0112122093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 6

[Unattributed report: "According to Opposition Sources Inside Country, Yasin Ramadan Tells Ba'th Leadership Baghdad Is Going To Take 'Crucial Step'"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Resolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has quoted a source close to the ruling Ba'th Party in Iraq as saying that Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and commander in chief of the popular army, held a meeting recently with members of the party's regional leadership and officials of important party branches, during which he told them that after a thorough review of the political phase Iraq and the world are experiencing, the leadership of the party and the state is about to take a "crucial step" to confront the region and the world with reality.

Hamid al-Bayani, SAIRI representative in London, said that the assembly's information indicates that Ramadan reviewed the international situation and decided that the situation is in Iraq's favor, saying that Bush's America is different from Clinton's America, and America is not serious about sending a single soldier outside its border at present, contrary to what happened with regard to the operation to return the branch—Kuwait—to the origin—Iraq. Ramadan pointed to the existence of some obstacles obstructing this step. He summed them up as follows:

1. The armed rebellion in the marshlands. He considered this point an important obstacle which must be destroyed.
2. Fear that the Iraqi scene may explode as was the case in March 1991. He called what happened then a chapter of betrayal and treason.

Ramadan revealed that the Defense Ministry mobilization and census directorate had summoned in an undeclared statement reserve officers whose ages are within the military service age, urging them to get in touch with recruitment centers. And that the government has decided to re-form the popular army, which was disbanded by a decision from the party in the past, under the leadership of Taha Yasin Ramadan himself.

'Major Changes' in Iraqi Opposition Movement

PM0112095093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27-28 Nov 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Major Changes in Iraqi Opposition Movements' Ranks Abroad]

[Excerpts] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Iraqi opposition scene has over recent days witnessed important developments which could lead to major changes in its structure and the nature of its internal and external alliances. After the Islamic al-Da'wah Party's withdrawal from the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], there are reports that three major figures in the congress—namely Major General Hasan Mustafa al-Naqib, member of the presidency council; Talib Shabib (a Ba'thist leader and a former foreign minister); and Dr. 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban, member of the executive council—voiced reservations about some of the congress' recent policies following meetings they held in Damascus in the last week of October. They are now taking their time before adopting a different and sudden position. It is well known, the Syrian Government criticized some UINC policies and did not encourage some pan-Arab tendency figures present in Damascus to join it.

Dr. Sha'ban has denied that he has suspended, or is about to suspend, his membership of the executive council. He stressed that he has "reservations" and "observations" about some issues, especially the embargo imposed on Iraq, to which he is opposed, because the Iraqi people is suffering twice over: from the regime and from the embargo. He broached border demarcation between Iraq and Kuwait, saying that he is "opposed to using deals to settle a historic dispute which concerns two neighboring peoples." He added that this issue can be tackled after the establishment of a legitimate government in Iraq and in accordance with international law and the UN Charter. He said that the element of parity between Iraq and Kuwait is absent at the moment and any agreement on the border is null and void because it is based on the element of compulsion, according to the provisions of the Vienna convention.

Dr. Sha'ban acknowledged that the UINC needs to be activated, it is currently suffering numerous shortcomings and loopholes, and needs new mechanisms to improve its performance.

Iraqi sources attribute the reservations voiced by Maj. Gen. al-Naqib, Shabib, and Sha'ban to deep disagreements which began a few months ago over numerous questions, including monopolization of decisionmaking, the handling of important contacts, refusal to convene the general assembly, the report that an executive council member—namely Dr. Makram al-Talabani, a former communist leader—was entrusted with holding negotiations with the Baghdad authorities's envoy to the Kurdish region, refusal to reveal the sources of the congress' financing, and insistent refusal to form a committee to run the congress' financial affairs. It is

noteworthy in this connection that the U.S. Administration announced that it provided the Iraqi opposition with $40 million. However, it did not specify which quarter received this sum.

The sources said that these two members' withdrawal from the executive council would deprive the UINC Executive Council of the ability to convene, because it would lack a quorum. The executive council had difficulty in securing the quorum needed to hold its recent sessions in north Iraq. Fourteen out of the 26 members attended the meetings. Besides, the withdrawal of two members from the presidency council requires convening the general assembly to choose replacements—which key UINC circles are trying to rule out, because it could lead to radical changes in the UINC's leadership and policy.

Iraqi opposition sources have confirmed that three forces participating in the UINC—namely, the Turkmen National Party, the Iraqi Democrats Union, and the Islamic Action Organization's wing led by Nizar Haydar—have sent separate memorandums containing specific demands to key quarters in the UINC, threatening to withdraw unless these demands are met. The sources added that tireless efforts are being made to put pressure on the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, led by the Tehran-based Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, to stop him from pulling out of the congress. The sources believe that these new developments will weaken the UINC but will not lead to its collapse, because it enjoys the support of the U.S. Administration and because the Kurdish movement is committed to it, on the grounds that it constitutes the Iraqi cover for its separatist orientations. The sources added that these developments will revive the parties which preferred to stay outside the the UINC and which could not unite before because of their differences or the influence of the states to which they are linked. They now believe that their unity is essential to surmount the dilemma they are experiencing. [passage omitted]

According to the sources, the features and causes of the dilemma being experienced by the Iraqi opposition have been discussed in depth by the opposition parties operating outside the UINC framework. Bilateral and multilateral meetings have intensified over the past two months. These contacts culminated in an undeclared meeting attended by Salih Daklah of the Iraqi Democratic Grouping, Dr. Faruq Rada'ah of the Iraqi Democrats Union, 'Abd-al-Husayn al-Husayni of the Democratic Pan-Arab Grouping, and Muhammad Rashad al-Shaykh Radi of the pro-Syrian Ba'th Party, in addition to a number of independent figures: Nuri 'Abd-al-Raziq Husayn, chairman of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization; Thabit Habib al-'Ani, a former communist leader; and Dr. Mahmud 'Uthman, a dissident Kurdish leader.

According to Iraqi opposition sources, it was decided at this meeting to form an alliance among these parties to be announced in two months' time through a new opposition conference to be held in London. [passage omitted]

Officers Reportedly Executed; Commanders Dismissed

NC3011174893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] According to reliable sources in Baghdad, the Iraqi regime recently executed a number of officers following the latest coup attempt to topple this regime. Among the officers executed were Staff Major General Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman, director of moral guidance in the regime's Defense Ministry; Staff Maj. Gen. Ghanim Basar; and Staff Brig. Gen. Pilot Husayn Mulla Khudayyir, commander of the Farras Air Base in Mosul.

The regime dismissed Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman, a director in the central markets, from his post because he was the brother of Staff Maj. Gen. Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman.

As part of the regime's campaign against the military, the Army commanders, and senior officers, the regime's repressive organs kidnapped Captain Jawad Kamil from his house in al-'Amiriyah. His fate remains unknown.

In another report, reliable sources said that Saddam Husayn has decided to abolish all the corps command posts and to keep only the command posts of divisions—including two Republican Guards divisions, one of which protects him in Baghdad—and the commands of the 5th and 4th Divisions in Mosul, the 1st Division in Karkuk, and the 22nd Division in the Saddam Dam. Saddam also told the commanders of the military divisions that they have been pensioned off.

Travelers Note 'New Wave' of Executions

NC3011182393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Travelers from Baghdad say that a new wave of executions of military personnel, as well as civilians, has taken place in Iraq recently. Travelers who left the country a few days ago say that the authorities of Saddam Husayn are mounting a large-scale detention campaign that targets the opposition. Late-night sweeps are being conducted in Baghdad and its suburbs of al-Thawrah, al-Bayya', and al-Shu'lah. Citizens arrested in these sweeps are being held at unknown locations.

The travelers add that relatives of the detainees and missing people have received the bodies of 40 individuals who were executed in connection with a recent coup against Saddam.

In another development, the U.S. dollar hit its highest point on the Iraqi market last Saturday [27 November], when it was exchanged for 120 Iraqi dinars. Inflation is rampant at 3,000 percent, according to people arriving in Jordan from Iraq. The prices of basic needs, including food, increased by 50 percent during the week after the

sanctions against Iraq were renewed. The price of clothes, particularly children's clothes, has also spiraled out of control. Public frustration with the economic deterioration is widespread and unprecedented, according to the travelers. The majority of Iraqis, the poor and middle-class citizens, are no longer able to afford life's basic essentials, the travelers say.

Five Killed in Ambush of Saddam's Deputy

NC3011185293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The motorcade of 'Izzat al-Duri, vice president of the so-called Revolution Command Council, was ambushed by a group of revolutionaries on 9 November in the 'Ali al-Gharbi area. A reliable source said that five of al-Duri's companions were killed in the ambush, one of them being First Lieutenant Salih 'Ali al- Wa'ili. Seventeen other guards were seriously injured and were immediately evacuated to the military [words indistinct] hospital for treatment.

The source added that Baghdad's repressive authorities launched a barbaric campaign against the citizens, including the search of houses, random arrests, and terrorizing citizens.

Iranian Opposition Says 'Israel-Made' Mortar Found

JN3011161693 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Paris, Nov 30,INA—The opposition Mojahedin Khalq Organization confirmed today that it found an Israel-made Iranian mortar near one of its bases in Iraq. The organization spokesman said that the 120 mm calibre was manufactured in Israel and carried code of the Israeli factory.

In a statement circulated on Monday in Paris, the organization said that Iran had shelled with artillery Ashraf [name as received] base 75 km away from the Iranian borders, and an element was injured in addition to the damage.

Six MKO Members Attacked, Killed

LD3011234293 Tehran IRNA in English 2108 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Anger and attacks against an Iranian terrorist grouplet 'Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation' [MKO] are on the increase throughout Iraq, a source with the popular forces that fight the Iraqi regime in Baghdad said here today.

He said a group of people in Baghdad last week attacked and killed three members of the grouplet known popularly in Iran and abroad as 'Monafeqin' (hypocrites).

The Muslim people of Iraq are angry with the terrorists for their advocacy of armed subversive operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and for its collaboration with the Armed Forces of Iraq.

In another attack some days ago the Iraqi popular forces attacked two of the hypocrites who passing in a car with a ranking member of the Iraqi secret police in the district of Alchapayesh, killing all three of them.

During the past few weeks the the Baghdad-based terrorist grouplet has tried every device to ensure that its ranking members get sufficient military protection while making their exit from Iraq.

Airspace 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN3011133293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1122 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft which violate Iraq's airspace. These facilities pose a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, Iraq's permanent representative said that on 24, 26, and 27 November these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 120 hostile air sorties.

Iraq's representative requested that the letter, which was accompanied by a list detailing these violations, be distributed among the member states in order to become acquainted with it.

Sources: Rabin, 'Arafat To Meet 10-12 Dec

TA0112124593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Dec 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will confer in Cairo between 10 and 12 December in order to reach an agreement which would permit the evacuation of Gaza and Jericho to begin, Palestinian sources in the territories told our correspondent.

They expressed the certainty that a formula permitting the implementation of the accords to start will be found. Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's adviser, arrived in Tunis with 'Arafat's adviser Ahmad al-Tibi in order to discuss arrangements for the summit meeting. It was agreed in principle to hold the meeting during a telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and 'Arafat when Peres was in Athens.

The sources added that the PLO has already informed Israel that it will begin to recruit 4,000 members of the Palestine Liberation Army to be deployed in Gaza and Jericho when the Israelis begin their withdrawal. They also handed Israel the deployment plan for these forces, but it is not final.

In reference to the al-'Arish talks, the sources said that Israel and the Palestinians are discussing the establishment of 38 Palestinian ministries, and that 16 have already been agreed on. On the PLO intention to move the talks from Egypt, the sources said that the reason is Egypt's close security watch of the Palestinian delegation and the wiretapping of its members. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sends ID Tag of Israeli MIA to Rabin

TA0112124193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The identity tag of missing Israeli soldier Zekharya Baumel has been sent by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Prime Minister Rabin. The tag was given to Rabin's political aide Jacques Neriya, who left for Brussels to hand it over to the prime minister. Baumel is one of the three Israeli soldiers who went missing during the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub in southern Lebanon in 1982. Since then a worldwide campaign has been mounted to find traces of what happened to them. The families are convinced they are still alive. Rabin asked for 'Arafat's assistance when the two men met in Cairo. This morning the PLO chairman's adviser, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, confirmed the tag had been found.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 1 December, in a related report filed by correspondent Yo'el Nir, adds the following: "Prime Minister Rabin believes this is a positive step, which will improve the mutual confidence between the two sides"]

Rabin: MIA Tag 'First Significant Step'

TA0112144493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that any attack, such as this morning's, undermines peoples' confidence in the implementation of the initial stage of the agreement of principles. However, we must continue to make progress toward the implementation of the agreement while simultaneously fighting terrorism. In an interview with our correspondent Yo'el Nir, the prime minister added that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was deployed and had been reinforced in order to protect the settlers in the territories.

As for the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's, the prime minister said that the fact that Israel had received the identity tag of soldier Zekharya Baumel constituted the first significant step emphasizing that many details pertaining to the fate of the three Israeli soldiers missing since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub—Baumel, Katz, and Feldman— still had to be revealed.

Rabin on Gaza Riots, Jericho Peace Talks

TA3011180493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rabin landed in Rome about one hour ago. Upon his arrival, Rabin hoped that the situation in the Gaza Strip would calm down, because this is an important condition for the continuation of the peace negotiations. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from Rome:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Prime Minister Rabin is scheduled to meet Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro soon, after ending his meeting with Prime Minister Carlo Ciampi. The prime minister arrived here after a delay in Paris caused by bad weather. Referring to the riots in the Gaza Strip, Rabin said they were caused by the incident in which a Fatah Hawks activist was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunshots after he had already turned himself in to the authorities. Rabin admitted it was a mishap, but emphasized the importance of calm for the continuation of fruitful negotiations:

[Rabin] Without going into detail, it was a mishap. I believe that in telephone contacts yesterday between the members of the Israeli delegation and the Palestinian delegation in Tunis we solved this problem. All sides must strive to create a situation which will make it easier for both sides to continue the negotiations without unnecessary entanglements.

[Segal] Do you feel that Fatah is losing control on the ground?

[Rabin] I suggest we refrain from using words like losing control. We have still not put Fatah and the Palestinians who are interested in peace to the test of control on the

ground. As long as they are not deployed in the territories with a sufficiently large police force it is impossible to judge their ability to control the situation.

[Segal] The prime minister denied today's newspaper reports that he has sent any verbal or written message to Yasir 'Arafat. Rabin said that the issue of the Palestinian national anthem and flag were not raised, adding that these issues will be raised only during the negotiations. Referring to the source of this report, Rabin said that we are in the midst of a very sensitive period, and it is only natural that psychological warfare is being waged. He advised the media to show more caution in its reports.

Rabin also explained remarks he made regarding the issue of prisoners yesterday. Rabin said he was not necessarily referring to the release of all prisoners, certainly not to the release of prisoners who harmed Jews. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Likud Says 'Arafat Reneged on Abandoning Terror

TA3011121893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The Likud claims it has been proven that Yasir 'Arafat has lost control over Fatah in the administered territories. A Likud spokesman has called on the government to reassess its agreement with the PLO leadership in Tunis.

The spokesman added that 'Arafat has gone back on his basic undertaking to abandon Fatah terror in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Likud says 'Arafat's failure has brought not only him but also Palestinian terrorism to a point of no return.

Settlers' Council Plans 130 New Settlements

TA0112091893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[Text] A secret plan for an unprecedented campaign to establish 130 new settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza [JSG] is currently in its final preparatory stages. It is being drafted by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and its code name is "This Is My Land" [zo artzi]. The declared goal of the plan is "to foil the withdrawal process in an attempt to halt it completely."

The operation was devised by the Operations Committee of the settlers' council, headed by Nisan Slomyansky, head of the Elqana Local Council. The operation was approved last week by the council directorate. Detailed operational files were prepared. They include maps and instructions on how to deal with the media, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the Arab population. Next Friday [3 December], the operation coordinators will hold a meeting in Ari'el, where they will receive the files. Aharon Domb, the council spokesman, yesterday confirmed that such an operation exists, adding: "No date has yet been determined for the operation, but it was not planned in view of 13 December."

The synopsis of the operation, entitled "A Plan for Practical Opposition in the Territories of JSG and the Golan," gives a very detailed account of the operation's goals, methods of operation, and conduct in the field.

The introduction to the document reads: "Israel's Government is determined to hand to a foreign sovereignty the territories of the JSG, the Jordan Rift Valley, the Old City of Jerusalem (yes - the Old City!), and the Golan Heights. Through an ongoing process of lies and deception, the government intends to bring about the elimination of all Jewish settlements in these regions.

"This state of affairs poses a threat to the very existence of the State of Israel, and obligates any Jew who sees things as they are to fight it to the best of his ability. The following plan is aimed at channeling practical activity onto a single and clear path."

According to the document, the goal of the operation is "to make the government face an impossible situation, from its point of view, with which it cannot deal (it is impossible to station a soldier on every hill), while using our significant advantages in the filed, and the other side's weaknesses."

Under the clause "The Method," the document reads: "Declaring ownership and seizing 130 new locations." The document further reads: Time table: "Presence on the sites will be determined ahead of time, ranging from 48 to 72 hours (while examining our options and results). A decision regarding the duration of our further presence on the sites will be determined according to developments. In any event, we will make clear that a new and permanent settlement is being set up on the site."

The size of the settlement: "Investment in the site should be minimal. The smaller and more flexible we are, the less options the authorities will have to evacuate us, and the more room we will have to resume our operations after each evacuation. We must remember: For the CNN viewer in Atlanta, 5 men, a tent, and a flag on a pole is a settlement just like Ari'el."

Presence on the site: "Orderly watch shift system should be conducted to maintain minimal presence on the site. Except for the first day, when massive presence of people from all over Israel will be required—it is advised to keep a small number of people present on the site and use the available public for a prolonged period of time. There is no need to maintain presence at night."

The document includes a special clause regarding the public relations campaign that should be conducted. Among other things, it was determined that each site will be called after a victim of a terror act, and the victims' families will send representatives to the sites bearing the names of their loved ones.

The document also calls for the incorporation of organizations such as the Professors Circle for Political Strength, local headquarters in the big cities, youth movements, the Habad Hassidic sect, and so on. "Their incorporation will make the public aware of the connections between all parts of the public and their massive support for us."

[A boxed insert on the same page of YEDI'OT AHARONOT carries a picture of a page described as "The Document," adding to the above report. The Introduction further reads: "Each of the residents will be called upon to contribute time and energy to the success of the plan by following clear and firm operational rules which will be issued by the central headquarters."

[Under the subhead Goal, the document adds: "2.b. (secondary goal) Making the national public and the government realize that it will be impossible to strangle settlements.

["2.c. Creating a momentum for waves of opposition to the agreement, which is beginning in Israel, and providing a practical channel for every supportive Israeli to express his opinion."]

[The document further states:

["5. Manner of Operation

["A person in charge of establishing a new settlement in his region will be appointed in each settlement. All the means used and administrative work will come from his settlement. The operation will be conducted according to the following rules:

["A. conduct

["A.1. There should be no physical or verbal clashes with the security forces.

["A.2. The land must be adhered to as much as possible.

["A.3. If an evacuation takes place, a return to the chosen site or the one next to it must be carried out immediately.

["A.4. There should be no initiated dealings with Arabs.

["B. Selecting a site (in case the operation headquarters has not selected a settlement site)

["B.1. It should be within a walking distance of the existing settlement, to make shift change and administrative work easier.

["B.2. It should be a clearly visible topographic site.

["B.3. It should be inaccessible to vehicles, to make evacuation difficult.

["B.4. It should not be in the existing settlement or areas allocated for it. These should clearly be new settlements. [(Attempts to obtain authorization within the existing master plans should be done through as secret as possible channels.")]

Peres Criticizes Initiative

TA0112093493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ya'el Dan and Itay Engel, on 1 December—recorded]

[Text] [Dan] A short time ago we spoke with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and asked him for his reaction to the new settlers' initiative for establishing 130 small settlements near existing settlements.

[Peres] There is only one government in Israel, and this will not change; there is one Army, there will not be two armies. Anyone who does not take this into consideration will have to draw the appropriate conclusions. This is not one country, but so far the rule has not been divided, just as the country has not been divided [sentence as heard]. There will certainly be no division of rule between two groups. I am sure that most of the settlers understand this and will not be influenced by a minority of extremists, who constitute a danger to democracy.

[Dan] We have heard that Israel is demanding that 'Arafat restore calm in the Gaza Strip as a condition for continuing the negotiations. Do you think 'Arafat can control the situation there? We know that the Fatah Hawks have declared a return to terrorism without coordinating this with 'Arafat and the PLO leadership.

[Peres] I believe that the events in the Gaza Strip constitute a series of mishaps more than premeditated acts. I do not believe any of the sides was interested in escalating the situation. There are many problems which have not been solved; there are people who murdered Jews, some people who are still hiding. Nevertheless, I believe we can overcome the problems.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, who is responsible for these blunders?

[Peres] To a large extent, the situation itself. We are in the midst of an extremely complicated situation, and we must get out of it. This situation has not cropped up all of a sudden, it existed even before the Oslo negotiations. This terrorism has been going on for many years. We have undergone bloody and painful experiences. It is not simple to overcome this situation. Peace itself is still on paper, it has still not been translated into a new reality. We are therefore in a state of transition, and perhaps this is the most difficult period of all. I have no doubt, however, that we will overcome the difficulties.

[Engel] Minister Peres, these blunders have already happened, and we want to know what damage they caused. Are the Palestinians ready to take into consideration the fact we are dealing here with blunders? The

ramifications on the ground, so far, have been an escalation in the Gaza Strip and damage to mutual confidence between the two sides.

[Peres] I think the Palestinians believed that there was an intention here to harm them. We made it clear that there was no such intention. We have no intention of reneging on the agreement or changing its spirit. There were some incidents which have not been solved so far, including the death of Abu-Rish: what was he doing in that place and how was he hit. It is very difficult to investigate precisely what happened now that he is dead, but I want to repeat that it was a mishap. At this stage, however, we can clarify that our intentions remain serious and positive.

[Dan] I want to ask again, to what extent can 'Arafat restore calm to the Gaza Strip? What influence does he have there?

[Peres] 'Arafat has the words, but he does not have the tools. There is still no Palestinian police which can implement his words. He can only appeal in words. We must take into consideration the fact that he has only limited control over the details of the situation. At the same time, I am not trying to absolve him of his responsibility.

[Dan] What is the point of demanding that he restore calm if he cannot implement this on the ground?

[Peres] He can give directives to his men. We must remember that 'Arafat has armed opposition which does not obey him. Until a Palestinian state is established, the Palestinians will not be able to enforce their collective will, the will of the majority.

[Dan] As you will notice, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres again had a slip of the tongue in referring to a Palestinian state. He clarified this by saying he meant a Palestinian police, rather than state.

Peres Discounts Rumors on Contacts With Syria

TA0112131893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the negotiations with Syria are stuck and a huge gap remains between Israel and Damascus. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a meeting with Golan Heights kibbutzim members in the Knesset, Mr. Peres said that at this stage the rumors concerning secret contacts and tracks between Israel and Syria are totally baseless. Peres criticized ministers who have expressed optimism and who air hints regarding alleged progress in the negotiations with Damascus. Shim'on Peres expressed great appreciation for the public campaign being conducted by the Golan settlers, noting that their public popularity is greater than that of the government.

Military Source on Syrian Military Buildup

TA0112115593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] An Israeli military source says that the activity of the rejectionist organizations in Syria is continuing. He claims that Syria has not changed its attitude on this issue, and is continuing to supervise the activity of all the terrorist organizations under its control, including Hizballah.

The source told our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that the Syrian Army is continuing its buildup process. There is no change in its operations, maneuvers, and procurement plans. This Army is purchasing hundreds of T-72 tanks, self-propelled guns, and Scud-C surface-to-surface missiles from North Korea. According to the military source Syria is also investing resources to acquire the ability to develop these missiles.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 1 December, in a related report by Arye Egozi on page 15, adds the following: "North Korea has supplied Syria with 60 Scud-C surface-to-surface missiles and eight launchers, thereby completing the deal signed approximately two years ago.

["This is reported by well-informed sources who are closely monitoring Syria's procurement of improved surface-to-surface missiles."]

PRC Provincial Governor Arrives for Visit

TA2911094093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 93 p A9

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] Governor Wu Guan Zheng of Jiangxi Province in eastern China arrived in Israel yesterday accompanied by a delegation of experts in various areas of industry. He said he and his entourage came to see high-tech plants and agricultural and other projects and to look into possibilities for cooperation and for establishing joint projects in his province. Jiangxi has a population of 40 million. [passage omitted]

In a news conference yesterday at the offices of the Eisenberg Group at Asia House in Tel Aviv, the Jiangxi governor, who came to Israel as the guest of the Foreign Ministry and of businessman Sha'ul Eisenberg, said "relations between his province and Israel began several years ago with a visit by Eisenberg, who opened the first offices of a foreign firm in Nanchang, the provincial capital." He added that "work on setting up several projects is under way, and we came to look into ways of tightening our ties and intensifying economic cooperation."

Wu said he is accompanied by directors of petrochemical plants and added that the delegation is interested in visiting oil refineries and surveying the petrochemical industry in general, "because we want to expand our petrochemical industry and to build an ethylene plant."

Mr. Eisenberg said he considers the first visit of a PRC provincial governor to Israel very important. He said that in recent years, the powers of the PRC provinces have expanded and that most important decisions are made by the provincial governors.

IDF, Fatah Agree on Efforts To 'Restore Calm'

TA3011173193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The commander of the Southern Command and the commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces in the Gaza Strip held a meeting this afternoon with four leaders of the Fatah organization in the Gaza Strip. At the meeting, both sides agreed to do everything to restore calm in the area.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF commanders rejected the demand made by the Fatah leaders to release Mansur al-Bardini, the head of the Fatah Hawks, who was captured in Rafah yesterday. The IDF commanders explained that al-Bardini was accused of murder. The commanders said that the IDF soldiers had been instructed to capture anyone carrying arms, noting that the people who had been injured in recent days had either been bearing weapons or in the company of armed men.

In riots and disturbances that took place in the Gaza Strip today, 61 residents were injured by IDF gunfire. Forty people were treated at hospitals and later sent home.

Palestinian Sources on Meeting

TA0112143793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Yosef Algazi]

[Excerpts] A 15-year-old youth was killed yesterday in the Gaza Strip during violent riots in which 70 Palestinians were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire. Seven soldiers were slightly injured after being hit by stones while dispersing rioters. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq briefed Prime Minister Yitzhq Rabin, who is in Europe, over the telephone about the incidents in the Gaza Strip. Following his meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, Rabin expressed regret over the death of the Gaza youth. Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, met with PLO leaders in the territories and discussed ways to lower the tension. [passage omitted]

Military sources in the Gaza Strip voiced concern yesterday that the boy's killing would lead to a further exacerbation in the Gaza Strip this morning, and to even more widespread rioting.

Fatah leaders met with Maj. Gen. Vilna'i and with Brigadier General Doron Almog, the commander of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, approximately four hours before the incident in which the youth was killed took place. Palestinian sources claimed that agreement was reached on several issues:

— Both sides would act to restore calm throughout the Gaza Strip.
— The IDF would cease hunting fugitive members of the Fatah Hawks except for those wanted for murder.
— The IDF would expedite pardons for 17 wanted members of the Fatah Hawks who have not yet turned themselves in.
— There would be separate discussions between Fatah headquarters and the IDF with regard to those Fatah Hawks fugitives wanted for murder.
—The IDF would reduce its forces in various locations throughout the Gaza Strip in order to prevent undue friction with the local populace.
—The IDF would unseal houses and remove roadblocks at various locations.
—The IDF would instruct its soldiers to treat the population well and to show more tolerance toward the locals.

In return, the Fatah leaders promised to act to reduce tenstions. Last night Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip met with the Fatah Hawks cells. The Fatah leaders briefed the gang members on the agreement with the IDF and recommended accepting it. It remains unclear whether all Fatah Hawks members were convinced.

Palestinian sources claimed that at the meeting, Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i said that the killing of Ahmad Abu-Rish four days ago, by an IDF Shimson unit, "was uncalled for," adding that the IDF "did not need this."

HA'ARETZ also learned that Maj. Gen. Vilna'i told the Fatah leaders that Mansur al-Baradini would not be released from prison at this stage. Nevertheless, he may be freed within the framework of a comprehensive prisoner release. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources reported that the meeting between the IDF officers and the Fatah leaders was organized in the afternoon, when some of the Fatah bosses visited Brig. Gen. Almog's office in Gaza City and asked to meet with the commander of the Southern Command.

Similar meetings have been held secretly over the past two months, including meetings between former fugitives and security forces' personnel in order to coordinate the surrender of wanted men to the authorities and other matters. [passage omitted]

Israeli Killed, 3 Wounded in Al-Birah Attack

TA0112073693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] An Israeli woman was killed and three other Israelis wounded—one seriously and two slightly—in a terrorist attack near al-Birah. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the wounded are currently being

evacuated to the Hadassah-'En Kerem and Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospitals in Jerusalem.

The incident occurred when the Israelis stopped to change a flat tire, at which time terrorists sprayed them with automatic fire from a passing car. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces sealed off the area and launched a manhunt for the terrorists.

Hamas Takes Responsibility

TA0112114293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced that an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad carried out the attack this morning near al-Birah. The security forces are continuing the manhunt after the terrorists who murdered an Israeli woman and wounded three other Israelis near al-Birah this morning. [passage omitted]

Army Forces Beefed Up

TA0112115093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The chief of staff has ordered the beefing up of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces in the territories. This was said by Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in the Knesset this morning. He said the order was issued following today's attack near al-Birah. Mr. Peres emphasized the political echelon is encouraging the Army to implement all the necessary steps to prevent murders and to react to such acts after they happen. He called on the Knesset to preserve unity, adding that today's attack is painful to everybody, disregarding political affiliations or opinions.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Likud Knesset Member David Levi accused the government of abandoning the security of citizens, adding that it is impossible to accept a situation wherein after a murder has been carried out the government asks the public to evince restraint.

Gaza Strip Youth 'Mistakenly' Killed by IDF

TA3011204793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] A 16-year-old youth was mistakenly killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in the Gaza Strip today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the gunfire was directed from an ambush at an IDF outpost in Gaza city's al-Nasir street. None of the soldiers was wounded. The troops fired back at their attackers and the youth was shot and killed. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

Israeli buses were pelted with rocks in Jericho and in Huwwarah, which is near Nabulus. Two Israelis were injured.

A firebomb was hurled at an IDF outpost in Hebron's Bet Romano. There were no casualties and the soldiers returned fire.

This evening, two firebombs were thrown on the Pat-Gilo road in south Jerusalem. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the firebombs were thrown from the direction of the village of Sharafat.

Further on Gaza Events

NC3011213493 Paris AFP in English 2010 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Nov 30 (AFP)—A Palestinian youth was shot dead by Israeli troops in the Shaykh Radwan district of Gaza City Tuesday [30 November], Palestinian officials said.

Hazim Muhammad Miqdad, 16, was killed in an isolated clash with an Israeli patrol.

His death brought to 1,146 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli bullets since the start of the Palestinian uprising, or intifadah, in December 1987, according to Palestinian figures.

An Israeli army spokesman said 54 Palestinians were wounded in widespread clashes with troops in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, 47 of whom were later released from hospital.

However, Palestinian officials said 80 Palestinians were wounded, five of them seriously.

Israel and the PLO struck a deal late Tuesday to try to cool the explosive situation, after soldiers opened fire in Khan Yunus, Gaza City and the refugee camps of Jabaliya, al-Shati' and al-Maghazi.

The accord came after senior army officers twice met top members of the mainstream PLO movement Fatah.

"There is an agreement on the practical steps that the Israeli authorities and the army must take to cool the situation down," said Sufyan Abu-Zaydah, a member of the Fatah "high committee" in Gaza.

"We hope to see these steps carried out in the coming days," he said after the talks, which the Israeli defence ministry called after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin urged the army to "calm things down."

The Palestinian violence was a backlash to an Israel crackdown on militants in the run up to the scheduled army withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, due to begin in two weeks' time.

In the Jerusalem area Israeli security forces arrested seven Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) militants Tuesday after one of them was caught trying to set fire to an Israeli car in the centre of the city, police said.

The group was alleged to have thrown petrol bombs at Israelis taking part in a religious ceremony in a Jerusalem hotel recently, injuring several of them, including children.

Calm Prevails; IDF Reducing Presence

TA0112092493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Calm is prevailing in the Gaza Strip this morning, except for several stone-throwing incidents. A curfew was clamped on the al-Shati' refugee camp and the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza. The commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Southern Command this morning came to the Gaza Strip and is holding talks with officers and soldiers about recent events.

As of this morning, the IDF is downgrading its presence in Gaza Strip towns to prevent friction with the local residents. This move is the result of an agreement reached yesterday with Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip. A military source said that judging by the events of the last few hours it appears that the cease-fire in the Gaza Strip is being observed and both sides are doing everything possible to prevent the recurrence of the confrontations between the IDF and the local residents.

Gaza Declared Closed Military Zone

TA0112114593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The Gaza Strip was declared this morning a closed military zone. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces are preventing the media from reporting on the cease-fire which was reached yesterday in a meeting between Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Southern Command, and Fatah leaders.

Hamas Squad Uncovered in East Jerusalem

TA3011174193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The Jerusalem District Police and the Shin Bet have uncovered a seven-member Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad from East Jerusalem which operated in the Jerusalem area. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports the squad is suspected of carrying out many attacks, including hurling petrol bombs at the Har-Ziyyon Hotel recreation area during a bar mitzvah celebration—an incident resulting in several injuries; throwing petrol bombs at an Israeli car in the Dayr Abu-Tur neighborhood; burning a garage in the Talpiyyot neighborhood, and torching many cars.

Kahana Hay Leader Arrested at Ben-Gurion

TA3011192393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] This evening, Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, one of the founders of the Kahana Hay movement, was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport. He was returning from a trip to North America and apparently tried to bring $30,000 in donations into the country.

Sources from the Kahana Hay movement told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that the money was for financing protest activities against the policies of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

New Labor Forum Opposes Golan Withdrawal

TA0112074793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] A new Labor forum on the Golan Heights has been established jointly by Labor party members and Labor Knesset Members [MK's] who are considered hawks. The aim of this forum is to create a united front against Golan Heights withdrawal. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports the initiators of the new forum call on the prime minister to bring the National Religious Party and Tzomet into the coalition instead of Darawshah's Arab Democratic Party, because the government is already too dovish. The new forum is made up of Golan kibbutzim and moshavim members, as well as MK's Gedalya Gal, Eli Goldschmidt, Ra'anan Kohen, and Avi Yehezqel.

Abu-Nuwar Vows No Unilateral Pact With Israel

JN3011202593 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 30 Nov-6 Dec 93 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Jordanian Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar by Hilmi al-Asmar and Samih al-Ma'ayitah in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-SABIL] Jordan has officially declared its rejection of any unilateral solution, but many practices, procedures, and policies taking place on Jordan's negotiating front conflict with that position, such as the declared and undeclared delegations and meetings. Don't these matters conflict with the idea of a comprehensive solution, which Jordan considers a constant political principle?

[Abu-Nuwar] I do not respect those who cast doubts about any official's honesty while they do not know the reality. I also despise those who try to distort their country's reputation. Sir, we in Jordan have long been aware that there is no military solution. I am talking about military science, but not like those who know nothing about military affairs. Today, there are lasers, advanced warplanes, and missiles, which all existed before the destruction of Iraq's force. Israel's force is 10 years ahead of that of the Arab countries in terms of science and technology. There is no longer any chance of a military solution. How can we coexist with Israel? The intifadah has come, and Palestinians die every day. How can anyone in Amman, Damascus, Kuwait, or any other Arab country step over the Palestinian people, the PLO, or the mother who sends her son to confront heavily-armed soldiers and see him killed? Following the Gulf crisis, Jordan and the PLO found themselves isolated on both the Arab and international levels. Our international isolation was about to destroy our economic situation. If the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ceases to exit, the Palestinian people and the PLO will no longer exist. Be sure of that.

The enemy's force is increasing. How can you fight, confront, or undertake jihad while your children are dying and the number of people imprisoned in the West Bank is increasing? Is this heroism? We then found out that the peaceful way was the best, and as a Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, they demanded it from us [sentence as published]. By the way, there are no problems between us and Israel except our Arabism, Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people. Our problem lies with the border strip and with the water issue, both of which will be solved one day. We will follow Egypt's suit.

[Al-SABIL] Who demanded and what did he demand?

[Abu-Nuwar] We were asked to support the Palestinians by providing a Jordanian umbrella for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to go to Madrid. In light of this, we went there and reached an understanding with the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese that we would adhere to certain principles, namely, land for peace and Resolutions 242 and 338; that we would not accept anything other than a comprehensive and just solution; and that we would continue coordination with the Arab parties involved. I assure you that we have fulfilled all our promises. Since the fifth round of negotiations, we have been telling our Palestinian brothers that we will not sign a unilateral agreement and that we will wait for them.

Jordan will not sign any unilateral agreement with Israel, and it will continue its endeavors along with the fraternal countries, including the cordon states, and during the multilateral negotiations. When you hear about studies and contacts on environment, economy, and the refugees, this means multilateral negotiations. The Palestinian brothers are now holding negotiations in the West Bank or Egypt without coordinating with us, but we are trying and even insisting on coordination at the highest level.

[AL-SABIL] Do the Palestinians reject coordination?

[Abu-Nuwar] As an Arab and a Jordanian who feels that he participated in the struggle in Palestine, I believe that there should be greater coordination between Jordan and Palestine. I do not think that the lack of coordination is caused by fear or bad faith. I think the PLO now has more problems and responsibilities and perhaps they were not quite prepared, so they are very busy.

[AL-SABIL] Is the PLO leadership suffering from any defect?

[Abu-Nuwar] I do not think there is a defect, but I think the scope of their problems is greater than the resources available to the PLO, financially and institutionally. Palestinian institutions are revolutionary, not state, institutions, which are needed now.

[AL-SABIL] Perhaps it is a crisis of confidence?

[Abu-Nuwar] I do not know what is going on inside the PLO, but I attribute what is happening to two reasons: lack of funds and absence of institutions. In both cases, I think Jordan can help more than others in this respect.

[AL-SABIL] The PLO could have benefited from the institutions and expertise of the Jordanian state to spare itself this confusion.

[Abu-Nuwar] In this context, I would say that many employees of Jordanian institutions are of Palestinian origin, so when a Palestinian state is established perhaps they will go to the Palestinian republic.

[AL-SABIL] It may be a kingdom.

[Abu-Nuwar] Perhaps a united kingdom.

[AL-SABIL] Perhaps it will not be anything more than self- rule?

[Abu-Nuwar] It would be a disaster. I do not think there can be any peace, under whatever circumstances, in

which the Palestinian people do not regain their legitimate rights as stipulated in Resolutions 242 and 338 and in line with human rights.

[AL-SABIL] The Israeli housing minister has said recently: We might accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza after five years, to serve as a barrier between us and Jordan in case Islamists seize power in Jordan.

[Abu-Nuwar] This is nonsense. The person who says this is dreaming. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is an existing state that has its own power, army, and entity. Israel cannot play this game with Jordan. If Israel attempts anything against Jordan, then trust between the Arabs and Israel will collapse.

[AL-SABIL] There is this possibility in their heads that the Islamic movement, or the fundamentalists, as they call them, could seize power in Jordan.

[Abu-Nuwar] Fundamentalist and other Muslims in Jordan are cleverer. They are Muslims, and among them lives the grandchild of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him. Therefore, they will not be led by [Israeli Construction and Housing Minister] Ben-Eli'ezer. However, if there are Muslims who are willing to be led by Ben-Eli'ezer, then to hell with them and let our nation never enjoy a good stature.

[AL-SABIL] These fears are only in their heads.

[Abu-Nuwar] This is nonsense. We have no fears in this kingdom. We ask God to help us in our bid to help our brothers regain their rights. If the question is one of self-defense, the stalwarts can do this. They know how to die. They will die and take the aggressors with them. I am one of the people who believe in martyrdom for God's cause. I also believe in sending my enemy to hell. [passage omitted]

King, Prime Minister Receive U.S. Defense Official

JN3011190493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Frank Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for policy, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended. During the meeting, they exchanged views on various international and regional issues as well as bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali also received Wisner. They reviewed the most recent developments pertaining to the Middle East peace negotiations. Dr. al-Majali explained to the U.S. official the ground covered thus far in the negotiations. He reiterated the Jordanian position, which underscores the need for a comprehensive solution on all fronts, because the failure to reach a solution on either the Syrian, Lebanese, or Palestinian tracks would result in a flawed and unviable peace.

Dr. al-Majali noted that Jordan has endured enormous burdens since the inception of the Palestine question, and that it has done so voluntarily, because it has faith in the Arabism and justness of the Palestine question. However, this Jordanian position toward brethren should in no way mean that Jordan can accept anything that could undermine its own security and safety, or that it can accept increased pressures, Dr. al-Majali added.

The prime minister highlighted the importance of doing the Palestinian people justice and allowing them to regain their rights, because they have always been at the heart of the conflict. Moreover, the prime minister argued, the slow pace of efforts to reach a solution will not foster trust in the peace process and its potential results.

The prime minister said that Jordan insists that its rights to territory and water resources be returned to it, and that the refugee issue be addressed fairly in line with international law and international legitimacy.

Army Chief Meets Wisner

JN3011181993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mir'i al- Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, received Frank Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for policy, at the Armed Forces General Command.

During the meeting, they reviewed the overall regional situation, mutual cooperation and coordination, and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by several assistants to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force Corps, the U.S. charge d'affaires, and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

King Addresses Army Graduates, Reiterates Policies

JN0112123393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] His majesty the king has reiterated Jordan's objective to achieve Arab unity and foster democracy. In a speech addressing graduates of a new batch of the Armed Forces, his majesty said the kingdom is committed to freedom, human rights, pluralism, and justice as the basis for its democratic path.

He urged believers in the principles of the Great Arab Revolt to continue building the modern Jordan, as the basis towards Arab unity.

On the Palestinian question, the king asserted Jordan's position in calling for the implementation of international resolutions and the principle of land for peace to help Palestinians determine their future on their national soil.

He pointed out to the kingdom's support of an independent Palestinian decision and to the PLO-Israeli peace accord. On the issue of Jerusalem, his majesty underlined the Hashemites' historic, legitimate, and religious ties to the holy city and vowed to pursue efforts to protect its religious sites.

His majesty praised the Jordanian Armed Forces for carrying the values of the Great Arab Revolt, namely, sacrifice, allegiance and dignity.

Paper Says Clinton-Rushdie Meeting Insults Islam

JN3011091093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Nov 93 p 26

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "Clinton-Rushdie—the Humiliating Meeting"]

[Text] U.S. President Clinton's reception of writer Salman Rushdie is part of a general U.S. rush that suggests pleasure in deliberately insulting and harming the religious feelings of billions of Muslims. Moreover, Clinton's reception of Rushdie is an insult to the Arabs' religious and pan-Arab feelings. Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, is an Arab and the messenger of Islam. This calls for denunciation of the U.S. President's behavior on both the Arab and Islamic levels.

It is reprehensible that the Arab world continues to remain silent as if the issue of the *Satanic Verses* concerns Iran alone and not the Arab and Islamic world as well. The issue, first and foremost, is of concern to clergymen and Muslim scholars in Holy Mecca, Medina, and the al-Azhar Mosque before being an issue for clergymen in Qom or in any other religious place.

Viewing the Rushdie affair within the framework of confronting fundamentalist extremism is worse than the offense itself. Indeed, it is a European-U.S. invention that reminds the Eastern world of their hostility toward Islam, the Arabs, and their civilization, heritage, and immortal values.

We do not think the church in Rome or the governments of the West would allow anyone to undermine the religious prestige of Jesus Christ. Even under the atheist values that prevailed there during the last century there was no protection for books or writers who attacked Jesus Christ the way Salman Rushdie attacked the Prophet to whose religion he belongs.

Clinton's meeting with Salman Rushdie is within the framework of similar meetings in London and other European capitals. Such a step would not have been taken were it not for the West's feeling that it has defeated the Arab and Islamic worlds, and for the new values which adopt the theory of dominating the peoples of the East.

If the governments of the Arab and Islamic world are viewing the Salman Rushdie affair carelessly at a time when the Western governments are showing increasing interest in him, then the Arabs and Muslims should fully explain their action. For example, they should present the chapters of the book to the Arab and Islamic public opinion so that the peoples will know the magnitude of the insult contained in Rushdie's satanic book, and whether or not this book deserves all this ado.

Any nation that does not adopt a decisive stand to defend the greatest man in its history; that is, the prophet of humanity Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, is a nation that is losing itself and its identity. Indeed, it is sentencing its present and future to degradation.

Al-Hariri Calls for Israeli Withdrawal

NC3011214493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said that an immediate Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon is crucial for the peace process. In an interview with the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, al-Hariri called on Japanese companies to invest in Lebanon, saying that Japan's contribution is vital for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

Lebanon, al-Hariri said, is not opposed to the peace process because it will reap the fruits of peace in the Middle East. He added, however, that the Israeli army's occupation of south Lebanon undercuts regional security. Israel's withdrawal from the south, he reiterated, is a condition for progress in the peace process.

Al-Hariri said Hizballah is a resistance group that opposes the Israeli occupation. Once the Israeli army withdraws, Hizballah will stop its resistance and possibly establish a political party, he added.

The prime minister said that the Syrian Army, which is deployed along the eastern and northern stretches of Lebanon, helps maintain peace in Lebanon and does not interfere in the country's domestic affairs. Considering the lengthy border shared by Lebanon and Syria, the two countries should have ties that match their mutual interests, al-Hariri stated.

Al-Hariri added: Lebanon is a land of economic opportunity. The civil war is over, and our country is looking forward to commercial cooperation with a country of Japan's status. The government's most pressing task is that of rebuilding the country's infrastructure—roads, electricity, telephones, airports, schools, and hospitals. These projects, which are being commissioned by both the public and private sectors, present business opportunities for Japanese companies.

Palestinian Group Said Holding Israeli Officer

LD3011180193 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 30, IRNA—A hitherto unknown Palestinian group calling itself the "Beitul-Moqaddas Guards Corps" claimed here Tuesday [30 November] that it is holding a high ranking Israeli Army officer as a captive since the past seven months ago.

In its handwritten statement to the IRNA office here, the organization said the officer was captured during an armed assault upon a Zionist military headquarter near Nazareth on July 9 during which several Israeli officers were killed.

It named the captive as Mosali Ben Elain from the Kafr Shash Jewish settlement, northeast of Nazareth.

The statement said the officer was an expert at Shinbeth the Israeli intelligence service.

The Beitul-Moqaddas Guards Corps said the captive will not be freed unless all kidnapped Palestinian and Lebanese languishing in Israeli prisons are released.

Israelis Launch Raid After Resistance Attack

NC3011180293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Our correspondent has reported that the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, particularly al-Luwayzah, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Sujud, came under intermittent artillery fire by the Israeli positions in al-Zaffat at approximately 1600 today. The abandoned army barracks in al-Nabatiyah also came under fire. The Israeli bombardment followed an attack with rockets and machine guns by resistance fighters this afternoon against the Sujud position. According to a statement by the resistance, clashes raged between the two sides for 10 minutes and fire was seen rising from the post.

Shelling in South; Gunboat Fires on Fishing Boats

NC0112095693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Some 10 shells landed on Jabal Safi in the south at dawn today and many shells fell in the Taw'amat Niha and al-Surayri areas in Western al-Biqa'. Before noon today, the Israeli forces raked the woods of Yatar Town in the central sector and the outskirts of al-Khiyam in the eastern sector.

An Israeli gunboat this morning fired in the direction of fishing boats in the al-Bayyadah area on the Tyre coast.

Hizballah on Israeli Raid Against Media Center

NC3011214693 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 19 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Commenting on Zionist statements following the recent Zionist aggression against a number of media centers in al-Biqa', including the two transmission towers of al-Fajr Television and the Voice of the Oppressed radio—statements that considered the centers to be military targets—a Hizballah media source stated the following:

Since the occupier enemy completely failed to face the heroes of the Islamic resistance in the field of jihad and martyrdom, its aggression against civilian media centers was designed only to cover this failure. The echo of this failure is still deafening enemy officers and soldiers. It is also deafening the agents who, out of fear and cowardice, rejected enemy orders to return to the positions where they had been used as sandbags to protect the enemy.

If the brutal attacks against al-Fajr Television and the Voice of the Oppressed were launched against the backdrop of the shock created by our valiant operations on Martyr Day, people near and far know that the citizen who was martyred while grazing his cattle is not a military target, and neither is

the technician who was injured in the attack. The justifications given by enemy officials are nothing but lies that their trumpets used to make without having any credibility, whether in the battlefield or when they suffer defeat or commit aggression.

Our people, who taught the world how to stand fast in the face of brutal aggression, are used to hearing these allegations whenever the enemy fails to protect its heavily armed soldiers, who are barricading themselves behind fortifications and shields. The shells that almost daily fall on peaceful homes in the villages of the south and western al-Biqa' provide further evidence of the enemy's false allegations. The alleged military targets are nothing but the bodies of our steadfast children, women, and old men. The recent air attacks in al-Biqa' fall within this framework.

We would like to emphasize that the recent aggression not only targeted a medium that long helped refute the lies of the occupation and expose its schemes, but sought to harm every credible voice speaking for any group. It is an aggression against Lebanon's media through al-Fajr Television and the Voice of the Oppressed.

Hizballah Delegation Visits PFLP Office

NC3011211393 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 19 Nov 93 p 10

[Excerpts] As part of Hizballah's coordination and consultation with the Palestinian groups opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, a Hizballah delegation has visited the office of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC]. [passage omitted]

During the visit, Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, member of Hizballah's Shura Council, stressed the need for a common vision toward the usurper enemy. He stressed: "We are in agreement that Palestine must return to its rightful owners." He added: "Those who do not enjoy the spirit of intifadah will fall into the trap. We and you will continue the resistance and jihad. The Islamic Resistance and Hizballah will remain with you, and we will not retreat no matter what the pressure is." [passage omitted]

Damascus Said Willing To Resume Bilateral Talks

PM0112104293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Nov 93 p 4

[Ibrahim Humaydi report: "Damascus Willing To Resume Bilateral Negotiations If There Is 'Seriousness on Road of Peace'"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—A high-ranking Syrian official has emphasized to AL-HAYAH that Damascus is willing to resume the bilateral negotiations in Washington if it believes that they "will be serious and are moving on the course leading to the aims of the peace process," and that Syria is ready to discuss—"with a real desire for peace"—all that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is going to propose during his upcoming tour. He pointed out that "no positive response" has been received from the Israeli side with regard to the Syrian document submitted by the Syrian negotiating delegation in August.

The Syrian official said that the Syrian paper submitted in the sixth round of bilateral negotiations "sums up the Syrian position on Syria's wish to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories." [passage omitted]

He said that Damascus' response to the previous U.S. Administration's initiative does not conflict with Syrian policy. "And our acceptance of it reflects the continuation of our policy and strategy, which calls for establishing peace in the region on the basis of the UN resolutions, which stipulate the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories." [passage omitted]

The Syrian official praised the second positive initiative made by Syria, which emphasizes Syria's desire to achieve peace, that is the "full withdrawal for full peace" equation. He pointed out that "the ball is in Israel's court now. So far Israel has avoided announcing its agreement to withdraw completely from the occupied territories on the basis of the terms of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy." The Syrian official held Israel "fully responsible for the dilemma the peace talks reached in Washington."

On Israeli proposals to raise the level of the talks or hold secret talks, the official said that the Israelis' statements about these matters represent "a media maneuver designed to divert attention from the sabotage position adopted by Israel in the peace process, its obstruction of the talks, and its avoiding saying the words which must be said if there is a desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, namely the full withdrawal from the occupied territories." The official added that in the context of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, its acceptance of the terms of the peace process, and implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, "we are willing to discuss what is proposed to us with a serious and real desire for peace and willingness to facilitate progress on the road leading to a comprehensive peace." [passage omitted]

On the results of King Husayn of Jordan's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and reports that Jordan may sign a separate agreement with Israel, the official described the talks as "positive and good." he said that the Jordanian monarch stressed his country's commitment "to a comprehensive peace on all tracks and rejected any separate solution away from the peace process."

U.S. Urged to End Israeli 'Maneuvering' on Peace

JN3011153593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is about to begin a new Middle East tour. Knowledgeable circles in Washington have leaked information that the U.S. secretary's talks will focus on advancing the peace effort on the Syrian-Israeli track. Reports also indicate that Christopher plans to stay in the region for some time for this purpose.

In a press interview, former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Syria is a major state in the region. He said no peace can be achieved without it. The truth is that recent developments in the Palestinian arena have shed light on an important aspect of defects in the Oslo agreement. This has opened the eyes of many Western circles to the serious consequences of pursuing separate deals and a divided peace.

Israel has devoted clamorous propaganda to the Oslo agreement, depicting it as the desired peace. Today it is faltering. This agreement has complicated things. Clashes in the occupied territories are escalating. The Israeli Army is reinforcing its troops and firing indiscriminately on Arab residents. It is not concealing its plans to hunt down and kill Palestinian strugglers. Everything is taking place as if the Oslo agreement is nothing more than camouflage for the liquidation of the Palestinian intifadah and the reorganization of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories on a new basis.

Recent events have attracted the notice of observers: The rekindling of the intifadah, Palestinian citizens of all persuasions have sought fiercely to resist the occupation, Israeli suppression has been escalated, and Zionist settlers have been given a role in revenge and sabotage operations against Arabs. This is in addition to the receding influence of the Palestinian party that signed the agreement. The agreement itself faces more difficulties every day. It is colliding with Israel's security pretexts and its refusal to withdraw its troops from Gaza and Jericho and its insistence on besieging Palestinians and subduing them by military rule.

The Israeli air raid on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in southern Lebanon has confirmed that the aggressive strategy of Tel Aviv's rulers has not changed a bit. That their talk of peace is deceptive. All these indications should certainly urge the party sponsoring the peace

process to intervene and review the situation in order to save the peace effort from definite collapse if things continue the way they are.

It is axiomatic that reembracing the Madrid conference foundations and the constants of the desired just, comprehensive peace in the region is the solution. The Arabs took part in the Madrid conference and the Washington talks to reach a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis, not to conclude separate deals and distorted settlements that would engender further disputes rather than make peace.

Syria has repeatedly cautioned, before and after the Madrid conference, that separate deals do not serve the cause of peace. True, durable peace depends on resolving the substantial issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict, primarily, ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories, returning them to their owners, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their national and legitimate rights. Syria has adhered to this position throughout the two-year talks in Washington and has not abandoned it a bit. This is not to be taken as a hard-line position, as Israel falsely propagates, but because full Israeli withdrawal and recognition of Palestinian rights are the key to the desired peace in the Middle East.

By taking a close look at developments in the Palestinian arena, we clearly see that the Oslo agreement has neither provided a solution nor served the cause of peace. The agreement is a setback to the cause of peace. To end the impasse, there is no alternative to returning to the foundations of the Madrid conference and to the realities of a just, comprehensive peace in the region. No doubt the U.S. emphasis on advancing peace efforts on the other tracks, especially the major Syrian track, is, in itself, a step toward rectifying the peace process and ending its current stumbling. This, however, requires that the United States throw all of its weight to end Israeli maneuvering and evasion of the obligations of the peace process.

Syria wants to see a comprehensive solution. Such a solution requires implementing Security Council resolutions so the Golan and the rest of the occupied territories can return to their owners, without ambiguity, vagueness, or manipulation. This is the road to a comprehensive, true peace that Syria always advocates.

Israeli Diplomacy, Violence in Territories Compared

JN0112084793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Press review]

[Text] TISHRIN notes the contradiction in the Israeli rulers' behavior. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is currently on a tour of Western Europe to secure economic aid and a distinguished position in the European Economic Community under the pretext that Tel Aviv has joined the peace process and signed the Oslo agreement with the Palestinian side. While Rabin was busy propagating these notions in Paris, the Israeli Army in Gaza was opening fire on the Palestinians.

TISHRIN says the bloody incidents engulfing the occupied Arab territories refute Rabin's fabrications. These incidents confirm Israel will not change its policy that is hostile to the rights of the Palestinian people and the international community's resolve to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Israel's chief concern is to destroy the intifadah and reorganize the occupation on a new basis under the cover of the Oslo agreement.

The paper adds: Developments have proven that Israel signed this agreement, despite its great defects and contradictions, only to circumvent the Madrid conference foundations and contain the international community's resolve to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. It also signed the agreement to entrench occupation and hegemony.

The paper affirms that Israel's obstruction of the Washington talks under the pretext of digesting the Oslo agreement, and then its obstruction of the Oslo agreement itself under the pretext of security, shows that Israel's concept of peace has nothing to do with the international concept of peace. Peace, in Israel's book, means entrenching its policy of occupation, settlement activity, and expansion. It is not a coincidence that the masses of the Palestinian people stand firmly today in the face of the occupation and its tools, having realized that the Oslo agreement is no more than a stab to their hopes and aspirations.

TISHRIN concludes: It is the duty of European nations, which have always supported a just, comprehensive peace and the rights of the Palestinian people, to watch out for Rabin's suggestions and attempts at blackmail. European states should thus declare that peace has its own foundations and that what is taking place in the occupied territories threatens the peace process in the region. Economic aid given to Rabin will only help settlement activity, expansion, and aggression. This aid will reflect negatively on the desired just peace in the Middle East. The explosive situation in the occupied territories refutes Rabin's claims and confirms afresh that peace is impossible without the removal of occupation, once and for all.

AL-THAWRAH says the recent bloody incidents in the occupied territories and the qualitative, great escalation in confrontations between Arab citizens and Israeli occupation troops are not ordinary, passing events. They are an act of resistance and large-scale Palestinian rejection of occupation and of everything that bolsters the existence of this occupation and usurpation of Arab lands.

The paper notes the current incidents in the cities, villages, and camps of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. These incidents represent a referendum inside Palestine on the Oslo agreement. They are also a test of the credibility of Israel and its rulers' commitment—not to the conditions of a just peace—but to the minimum

level of a peace which they tailored according to their ambitions and are trying to conclude with others.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is the collapse of a crippled agreement that did not provide peace for the people who signed it. This agreement has been used by Israel as a means to escape the obligations of the political settlement. It is also an Israeli plan to give a free hand to its war machine and to its herds of settlers to slaughter the intifadah and hunt down the Palestinian people. Only two months after signing the agreement, and before its implementation, Israel has stripped the agreement of any point that could serve the interests of the Palestinian people.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The Palestinian people, with their vigorous forces and revolutionary strugglers in the pan-Arab arena, and in the occupied territories in particular, are aware of the above facts. They have sought guidance from the Syrian stand. They have also seen on the ground the dangers of the agreement and the sound warning of President al-Asad that each point of the agreement needs a separate agreement, and that the agreement gives Israel much without committing it to anything or giving the Palestinians anything in return. The Palestinian people are determined to thwart the agreement and to proceed along the path of resistance and martyrdom to liberate their territories and wrest their rights that are guaranteed by international resolutions. Partial agreements and solutions do not make peace and can never bring security and stability to the region.

AL-BA'TH speaks about Israeli escalation, which Tel Aviv is eager to maintain whenever a U.S. or Western envoy visits the region to promote the peace process.

The paper notes the bloody confrontations in the Gaza Strip two days before the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state in the region. Before that, southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' witnessed brutal raids.

AL-BA'TH wonders: What is the point of the new proposals of the U.S. Administration's envoy, as reported by the press, amid a continuation of Zionist terrorism and the occupation's stepped-up crimes and destruction against Arabs in Palestine and southern Lebanon?

The methods of killing and suppression are an indivisible part of the nature of Israeli policy, which always claims a desire for peace. Further, the enemy sources spoke yesterday about secretly arming the settlers and about a constant quest to maintain the Army's strength, even if peace was achieved.

This policy means Israel still seeks to impose surrender on the Arabs through its superior military force that enables it to control the fate of the region.

AL-BA'TH concludes: This equation contradicts the climate of the peace process and is rejected by Syria, which represents a strong bulwark for the defense of Arab rights. Any peace that is not based on international resolutions and the Madrid formula will remain incomplete and will harm Arab dignity and threaten pan-Arab existence. Unless peace efforts put an end to Israel's belligerence and force it to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the foundations of the peace process, the region will never enjoy security, stability, and true peace.

Syria 'Never' To Relinquish Land Rights

JN3011205493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, and as part of our people's celebrations on the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, a new class at the Navy Academy graduated today. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi deputized for the president. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi delivered a speech in which he said: I have the honor to represent President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, in sponsoring this celebration. On this occasion, I convey to you leader al-Asad's greetings and wishes of success in assuming your national and pan- Arab tasks toward the decisive issues of the Arab nation, thereby embodying the principles of our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the directives of its secretary general, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shihabi added: What calls for pride is that your graduation coincides with the celebrations of our people on the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement led by struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. This movement constituted an important historic event in the march of our party and steadfast state and opened new horizons for a decent Arab future.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi noted the great concern showed by the symbolic leader, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, for our heroic ideological army in terms of reorganizing it on the basis of the most modern methods, providing it with all high sophisticated weapons and military equipment, and strengthening the fighters in their thinking and ideology.

Speaking about the peace process in the region, al-Shihabi said: Israel feels peace within the framework of the UN resolutions is a threat to its existence, because it contradicts its imperialist schemes and obstructs its expansionist ambitions and Torah aspirations. Israel finds in the separate deals and secret talks a successful method to evade peace requirements and impose its conditions on the Arabs.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi added: Israel, however, will not succeed in this despite its attempts to obliterate facts and to evade peace requirements. It will find itself forced to comply with international resolutions. Israel must take into consideration that we, in Syria, will not abandon our Palestinian Arab people's rights and will not accept less than withdrawal from southern Lebanon and from the entire occupied Syrian Golan. We always repeat what our leader, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad said: Syria will never relinquish its national will and will not concede its land or rights. We fight with honor and make peace with honor. Nothing will take place at the expense of our dignity, land, or people. [passage omitted]

Iran

Clinton's Meeting With Rushdie, Remarks Criticized

NC0112093893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, a week after his short meeting with Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the book *The Satanic Verses*, and in the wake of the protest by the Islamic world against this action, U.S. President Bill Clinton was compelled to break his silence on the issue and stated: The meeting was not intended as an affront to Islam but was meant as support for freedom of expression.

It is as if Mr. Clinton could not find any other means to support freedom of expression except by meeting with the individual most despised by Muslims, to whom he is persona non grata. In other words, after a meeting of a few minutes with President Clinton in one of the White House corridors, freedom of expression was resuscitated in the world and the most fundamental problem of mankind was happily and amicably resolved!

Clinton has asserted that he does not regret this meeting, but in the opinion of experts the U.S. President's remarks are an effort to placate the Islamic world on his inappropriate action.

It is clear to all that His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's edict declaring Salman Rushdie an apostate does not have any connection with freedom of expression. The difference is between the application of freedom of expression and freedom to insult and ridicule the sanctities and beliefs of billions of individuals. Mr. Clinton certainly did not meet with Salman Rushdie for the purpose of upholding freedom of expression, any more than Salman Rushdie was condemned to execution for the sake of his freedom of expression, nor is this kind of meeting the sole means of affirming such a freedom.

Therefore, no one can doubt that Clinton's action was a mere political one intended to undermine Islam and to support the insulting works of Rushdie, as well as to combat the Islamic renaissance movement in the world. Thus, no one can interpret the U.S. President as anything else.

In any case, the remarks of the U.S. President—who did not anticipate that his thoughtless move would elicit such a reaction that he would be compelled to justify it in a permuted context—should be a lesson to other Western leaders. In the wake of these remarks, we can add this incident to the list of political blunders made by the U.S. President, to which he himself admits.

Christopher's Middle East Tour To Be 'Fruitless'

LD0112100593 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—An Iranian daily Wednesday [1 December] said the forthcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East region and exertion of pressure on the regional countries to accept Gaza-Jericho pact will be fruitless.

The editorial in the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' noted that the dialogs between the 'Arafat group and the Israelis are on a stalemate. "Israel, by buying time and presenting various ruses, does not wish to grant concessions".

It further added, "The Palestinians, with the lapse of time, better realize how 'Arafat has been deceived and understand that none of their basic rights has been provided for in the 'Arafat- Israel accord."

The article noted that the number of those opposing the accord will proliferate with the lapse of time and "Advocates of the accord, especially the Americans, regard Syria blameworthy for the gap among the Palestinians."

The paper noted that Palestinian movement has reached such degree of growth and perfection not to accept the guardianship of any country.

"As a result, Christopher's visit to the Middle East next week and exertion of pressure on the regional countries, especially Syria, will be of no avail," concluded the daily.

Editorial Criticizes UN Report on Human Rights

NC2911091393 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Nov 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Galindo Pohl—Monthly Remuneration on the Pretext of Human Rights"]

[Text] In a fresh round of efforts, Galindo Pohl, the special representative of the UN Human Rights Commission, has once again accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of violating human rights. Meanwhile, Galindo Pohl admits that the sources used to prepare his report were mainly outside Iran and that no investigations were carried out inside Iran to confirm his report.

The basic point of the recent report by the special representative of the Human Rights Commission is that it is based on Iranian opposition groups and on disagreement over Iran's approach to dealing with drug smugglers. Even though the Commission claims that more research should be carried out on this subject, it still insists on its imaginary accusations.

Galindo Pohl is beating his chest for those whom he refers to as his sources of information who have perpetrated the greatest number of crimes under the pretext of purging their organization over the past few years.

People who are destroying families in the name of ideological divorces and issuing identity cards for children named Mas'ud and Maryam [Rajavi, the leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and his wife] have told the representative of the Human Rights Commission that human rights are being ignored in Iran. This comes at a time when they do not have the slightest idea whom terrorist groups consider to be human beings?

There are many families in Iran who can tell Galindo Pohl who killed their dear ones and on what charges.

A small group that riddled the bodies of soldiers at the peak of a war and attacked Islamic Iran's borders in the name of the Liberation Army is more savage than any commission can imagine.

Can a small group that massacres the Shiites in southern Iraq and the Muslims in Algeria in the name of struggling against the Islamic Republic of Iran be the source of information for an international organization's investigations? If the Human Rights Commission and its respected representative take the West's mass media as their source of information, then why don't they believe the reports published by the same mass media on the camps of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—word used to described the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] inside Iraq and the fact that they control the drug traffickers' activities up to the heart of Europe? Why are they not interested in which direction Bosnia—which is in the wake of its second bloody winter—is being pushed or in what is happening in Somalia, southern Lebanon, Haiti, Zaire, and southern Iraq? The victims of these incidents are definitely not attaching any hopes to the organization that Galindo Pohl represents.

Throughout the period that it has been the target of a savage onslaught by its domestic and foreign enemies, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also not attached any hopes to the Human Rights Commission or to similar organizations. Throughout this period, it has realized that, in the final analysis, people like Galindo Pohl can only play the role of a pressure lever and nothing more!

If the representative of the Human Rights Commission intends to study human rights, he should not be affected by political winds. But if this happens, then the West will definitely not have any need for him. Therefore, ensuring a monthly remuneration is a good enough pretext to prepare a report; and the Iranian nation did not expect him to do anything else.

Passengers of Hijacked Plane 'Terribly Ill'

LD3011204493 Tehran IRNA in English 2016 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—An National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) offical said here today that many of the passengers of an Iranian aircraft hijacked to Basra, Iraq, yesterday are terribly ill and need intensive medical care.

He said the passengers aboard the Fokker Friendship F-27, were flying to Ahvaz the capital of Khuzestan Provnice for immediate hospitalization due to the lack of advanced medical facilities in the city of Gachsaran from where the plane took off.

Among the passengers are babies as well as very old people. Many of the relatives of the hijacked plane are voicing anxiety about the whereabouts and the health status of their families that were in the plane.

The plane hijacked by the Mujahideen [Mojahedin-e] Khalq terrorists, was chartered by the Oil Ministry. The grouplet, popularly known as munafiqeen (hypocrites) have a long record of crime and murders in Iran and against Iranian interests aboard.

Morid Shoushtarizadeh of the National Iranian Oil Company said here today that there are weekly flights from Gachsaran to Ahvaz on Monday that usually fly patients needing specialized or urgent medical services.

He added because there were empty seats in the cabin of the plane Monday, a number of NIOC employees, too, were admitted on board the plane.

The relatives of the sick passengers on board the hijacked plane are asking the responsible international circles to condemn hijacking and demand punishment of the hijackers of the Iranian passenger plane.

Daily Deplores 'Futile Nuclear Competition'

LD0112112793 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Wednesday [1 December] called on the world countries to observe non-proliferation pact and stop arms race. In its editorial the daily referred to the recent statements by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who said Islamabad would never give up its nuclear weapons program and called for negotiations on nuclear non-prolifration which New Delhi has so far rejected outright.

"It seems that the two neighboring countries have started a nuclear race with no hope of termination in sight, dissipating their valuable human and material sources that should be used towards real developmental programs." The daily, however, believes it is very unlikely that either side would use atomic bomb in the event of a war. "When both Islamabad and New Delhi are well aware of the dangers and the disastrous consequences of an atomic confrontation, why don't they sit down to negotiate their futile nuclear competition."

According to the daily, "the party which refuses to negotiate non-proliferation should be held responsible for a possible nuclear holocaust in the subcontinent." It assured that a nuclear arms race would destabilize the whole region which is already suffering from poverty, malnutrition and over-population and called on leaders of both countries to find a peaceful solution to atomic race.

"It is necessary that all countries in the world, and in particular in the Middle East, including Israel, to commit themselves to the non-proliferation regime and stop developing weapons of mass destruction," the editorial concluded.

Majles Speaker, Hamas Leader on Palestinian Issues

LD0112114593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Musa Abu-Marzuq, leader of the Hamas Islamic movement, and his delegation met with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri this morning.

According to a Central News Unit report, the leader of the Hamas Islamic movement briefed the speaker on some of the problems of the Palestinian people and the internal situation in Palestine. He referred to the resistance and steadfastness of the people of Palestine and emphasized the continuation of the struggle until the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine are attained.

Referring to the 'Arafat-Israel compromise, he said: This agreement is in fact an attempt to legitimize the occupation by the Zionist regime. But the combatant Palestinian men and women, and even children, will not cease their struggle aimed at liberating their land, which belongs to the world of Islam, and will regain that usurped right.

The Hamas leader added: We do not find ourselves alone on the battlefield, and regard all the world's Muslims and liberals as our allies and supporters. He also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for adopting correct stands concerning the Muslim people of Palestine.

At the meeting the Majles speaker said: Today, despite all the varied conspiracies and pressure by the arrogant world, inspired by the historical ideals of his holiness the imam, may God be pleased with him, and under the guidance of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, our country is determined to be faithful to its ideals and not to retreat from them by an inch.

He added: The Majles, because of its position in our system, has always been behind the leader and government officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and considers support for Muslims, particularly the oppressed people of Palestine, to be important and it will stop at nothing in that endeavor.

Collaboration With Turkish Opposition Denied

LD2811144693 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—An agreement reached between Iran and Turkey on border security cooperation has prompted certain press and political circles to accuse Iran of collaboration with Turkish opposition groups.

The two countries agreed to start security cooperation following the recent visit to Ankara of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi who met with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

Arabic daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which is published simultaneously in Saudi Arabia and London, in its last week's issue accused Iran, Libya and Lebanon of meeting parts of the financial needs of Turkish groups opposing Ankara government. The daily, which raised unfounded and baseless accusations against Iran three times last week, said its recent allegation was based on documents seized from Turkish dissidents in France.

Experts on Turkish affairs believe that with regard to the welcome accorded by Ankara to security cooperation with Iran, allegations on Iran's collaboration with Turkish opposition groups are quite biased and aimed at tarnishing Tehran-Ankara relations.

Diesel Engine Assembly Line To Be Built in Libya

LD3011204393 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tabriz (East Azarbaijan Prov.), Nov. 30, IRNA—The 'Motorsazan' industrial plant here is to establish a diesel engine assembly line in Libya, a company official said here Tuesday [30 November].

The plant in Libya will be put into operation within the next two months and the Iranian company will supply different parts of the diesel engines, he said.

He added that in the past eight months the company exported dlrs. 1.1 million worth of motor parts to England, Turkey and Libya.

Papers, IRNA on OPEC Meeting, Prices

TEHRAN TIMES Views OPEC Role

NC2611190893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 18 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Any Prospect of an End to the Oil Crisis?"]

[Text] The oil market globally has grappled with one of its most critically hard times over the past weeks. In the wake of the recent OPEC meet and with the start of the winter season all hope was pinned on having the oil market back on its normal track. The hope, however, was ephemeral, as several weeks after the said meeting and a relative improvement in the market, the oil prices slumped once again and the downward slope persisted. To cite an example, reference can be made to the decline in the average price of the OPEC oil basket to $15, a figure by far lower than the stipulated $21 per barrel. This tolled the knell of warning for the OPEC countries and, in a word, cast a pall of dismay over any prospect of improvement in the oil market.

This adverse condition perpetuates for sundry reasons: the Western countries' political ploys of clamping taxes on energy, the boost in the non-OPEC producers' oil supply to the market, the drop in demand for oil due to global economic recession, the OPEC failure to find principal ways and means to tackle this situation.

The price drops and generally the oil market recession come at a time most propitious for oil price hike [as published]; therefore, the stage is set for worse upshots in the economies of the oil-producing countries. This is reflective of the Western countries' success in getting somewhat closer to their main aim and objective, namely the decline in the price of oil for the purpose of decreasing their own expenses. Meantime, the oil-producing countries have no leeway because of their economic structures.

Lack of coordination among the OPEC members and the OPEC failure to come up with a fundamental and logical policy has conduced to a situation wherein the Western countries have been able to have their dream fulfilled. In other words, the OPEC, instead of solely focussing on determination of the production ceilings and quotas, should first and foremost concentrate on reviving its own role and realizing its true and genuine standing in the oil market. Another point of momentum [as published] is that the OPEC members should respect the decisions made and should meticulously carry them out. In such a case, the global crises cannot give rise to severe fluctuations in the oil market.

More precisely, the adopted policies should be so exact, fundamental, and formulated that they would bar any crisis in the oil market induced by the Western countries' political maneuvers and attempt to wield influence over some OPEC member countries. The OPEC should create the necessary flexibility in the market. One should wait and see what novel changes the oil market will face in the upcoming OPEC meet slated for November 23. Can hope be cherished in an end to the oil crisis?

Lower Production Quotas Urged

LD2811130993 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 28 Nov 93

Tehran, Nov 28, IRNA—The bilingual weekly 'KAYHAN HAVA'I' in its latest issue called on members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to agree to a two or three percent cut in their production quotas.

In its editorial, the weekly commented on the failure of the OPEC countries to approve, in their last week Vienna meeting, a temporary drop in their production.

"A heavy cut in production has always proved to be detrimental to OPEC since it results in a loss of control of the market and therefore a small cut may be the best option for producers to agree upon."

It further said, "a continuing rise in output from North Sea fields, a decrease in world consumption and differences among OPEC and non-OPEC countries" are other factors, besides overproduction, which should be blamed for the continuing crisis in the oil market.

"Should no comprehensive political efforts be made to prop up the prices, OPEC will suffer more and their budgets will be put under more pressure," concluded the editorial.

Non-OPEC Producers Blamed

LD2911144593 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Western mass media are attempting to introduce the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) responsible for the drop in oil prices while the fact is that non-OPEC countries are more accountable.

While OPEC holds 76.7 percent of the proven crude oil resources of the world, its share in the international oil production is only 40 percent. But, the independent countries administer 60 percent of the internatinal oil production despite holding only 23.4 percent of the resources.

Surely, the group that controls 60 percent of the international production is more responsible for the present crucial condition in the oil market than OPEC.

Demands for crude oil reduced as a result of economic stagnation in Europe and Japan. However, the oil producers in North Sea, Britain and Norway increased their production by more than 500,000 barrels a day since the beginning of 1993. The oil production of Russia, Oman, Yemen and other independent countries also increased in the meantime.

By determining a production ceiling of 24.5 million barrels a day for the last quarter of 1993 and the first quarter of 1994, OPEC reduced its production by over one million barrels during its last September meeting in Geneva.

Many Western oil experts praised the move at that time as an effective step to strengthen oil prices.

Following the recent ministerial meeting in Vienna in which the former production ceiling was retained, the independent producers and international brokers who favoured a decrease in the OPEC production to increase prices, turned to various means to introduce OPEC responsible for the fall in the prices.

The independent producers have seldom coordinated with OPEC efforts in the past and have only taken advantage of OPEC moves to strengthen the oil market in order to sell their oil at a higher price without accepting any responsibility for the market fluctuations.

OPEC set up the quota system in 1986 following the drop in oil prices as a result of competitions on oil

production and reduced its average production from 18.1 million [m] barrels per day [bpd] in 1986 to 17.1m bpd in 1987.

However, the international production reduced by 600,000 bpd because the independent producers had increased their production by 400,000 bpd.

OPEC increased its production to make up for the shortage of four million bpd following the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War and the halt in Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil exports.

The average OPEC production increased from 21m bpd in 1989 (before the crisis) to 22.96m and 23m bpd in 1990 and 1991 respectively.

Those who feel satisfied with the cheap oil should know that the decrease in the purchase power of OPEC means a fall in the demand for their exports, said the commentary.

Obviously fair prices will be in the interest of all. Not only the producers but also the consumers should feel responsibile in this connection so that investment trend in the oil industry will make possible confident supply of energy in the future.

Majles Deputy Reviews Foreign Policy

NC2911183593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] After the victory of the Islamic revolution, opportunities for exploiting regional problems such as the crises in Afghanistan, in the Republic of Azerbaijan, and in the Persian Gulf emerged for Iran. But unfortunately, due to slow reaction or lack of sufficient attention, all these opportunities were lost and instead of being able to affect foreign policy we became vulnerable.

This was stated by Hojjat ol-Eslam Sobhaninia, Majles deputy from Neyshabur who is also a member of the Majles leadership board and rapporteur of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee, in an interview with ABRAR. He also referred to the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: With its logic and principles on values, coupled with the popular support that it enjoys, our country should always be on the scene. However, sometimes, with some international problems, instead of playing an effective and dynamic role in foreign policy, we have been passive and have moved more slowly than we should.

He listed some of the positive points of Iran's foreign policy as: correct management and impartiality during the Kuwait crisis; Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal to the 1975 borders; the official identification by the UN Secretary General in 1991 of Iraq as the aggressor; the solution of the problem with Saudi Arabia; the re-establishment of relations with Iraq; the solution of problems with Western Europe without granting any concessions; active presence on the international scene; and playing a major role in the United Nations, in the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization. He called for further coordination among the officials to overcome shortcomings in foreign policy.

The rapporteur of the foreign policy committee of the Majles then spoke about Iran's policy on the developments in the Central Asian countries and in the Karabakh war and said: The emergence of differences in some of the newly-independent countries of Central Asia will have negative, dangerous impacts on the region. Some countries like America are fanning the flames of this conflict from behind the scenes.

He added: We have not spared any efforts to end this war and we cannot be indifferent to this issue. We have even given Armenia the necessary warning that we cannot be indifferent to the occupation of areas in the Republic of Azerbaijan that are close to our country's borders.

In answer to a question by our correspondent on cooperation among Iran, Russia, and Turkey to solve the Karabakh problem, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sobhaninia said: Cooperation among these three countries in the region will be highly effective in ending the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and of course in the initial phases some first steps have also been taken for this joint effort in the form of bilateral contacts. However, unfortunately since multilateral efforts have not been carried out and because of the absence of effective participation, these efforts have not been satisfactory.

In answer to a question on what steps Iran will take if Armenian aggression intensify and even lead to victory over Azerbaijan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sobhaninia stated: Or course, I do not think that the crisis will intensify to this extent. However, we have repeatedly warned the Armenian officials that we cannot remain indifferent to this aggression on our borders. Presently we are very alertly following the problems in this region and if the current crisis intensifies, the side that is fanning the flames of this crisis—in other words, Armenia—will have to bear all the consequences of this act.

The Neyshabur people's deputy in the Majles then commented on the possible impact of Jordan's peace with Israel and said: The PLO-Israeli compromise was reached under the aegis of America, and it cannot ensure the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. There are still conflicts in the region. The intifadah is still steadfast and the attacks against the Zionist regime continue. Therefore, it is questionable whether they will be able to legitimize Israel with the consent of or compromise by some countries like Egypt and Jordan.

On the negative impact of the PLO-Israeli accord, he said: America is putting great pressure on regional countries to recognize the Zionist regime officially. Even if all the regional countries reach a compromise with Israel, the Palestinian issue will stay like an ember under the ashes that will soon burst into a huge fire and affect the entire region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sobhaninia then commented on effective ways to confront the new world order and said:

Islamic and developing countries should move consistently and in coordination in a unified front against America. Within this context, "regional unions" can be used as a powerful pole to confront this plot.

Referring to the differences between the European countries and America on the issue of a "united Europe," he urged that this opportunity be seized to achieve the Islamic Republic's foreign policy goals and he described regional formations as an effective element to confront America's colonialist policies.

In answer to another question by our correspondent on pursuing a strategy of "alliances" and the establishment of links with some regional and world countries in order to solve problems and to strengthen foreign policy, the Neyshabur deputy said: We have many things in common with regional countries and we have always wanted unity. Right now, one of the solutions for the problems of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf is concordance and coordination in the form of "council holding" with regional countries.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sohaninia then referred to the establishment of relations with America and stated: We have no war with the people of America. We believe that the politicians in the White House have never wanted to accept the just rights of our nation. On the one hand they pay great lip service to slogans of democracy and freedom, and on the other their deeds negate their words and slogans. American statesmen have always been hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since this is so, how can we talk with that country? But if America is prepared to return our frozen assets and to respect the principles that we value, then the issue of relations and talks can be brought up.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sobhaninia referred to the remarks by the esteemed leader of the revolution and underlined the importance of observing the declared principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran in foreign policy which are "honor, wisdom, and expedience."

New Port To Help Broaden Trade With Central Asia

NC2711080393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Sari]

[Text] In view of the importance of maritime transportation between Iran and the Central Asian republics, the operation of a multi-use port at Fereydun Kenar will play an effective role in broadening commercial exchanges between Iran and the Caspian Sea littoral states.

Following the recent visit by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Caspian Sea littoral countries and in view of the government's policy of expanding and constructing infrastructural installations, the extension of maritime communication lines, ports, and export terminals, as well as the fisheries industries in the northern part of the country, have been given special attention.

With the multi-use port of Fereydun Kenar going into operation—it is now under construction, using new techniques—the necessary facilities will be provided for commercial exchanges between Iran and the Caspian Sea littoral countries.

It is worth mentioning that the multi-use port at Fereydun Kenar is being constructed on 90 hectares, and will house customs installations, a safety and control building, a waiting station, a fish-cleaning unit, cold storage, parking, a helipad, guest house, health dispensary, meeting lounge, four piers and some breakwaters. With a 5.5 meter trough, its docking capacity is four vessels, with a maximum capacity of 4000 tons, at a time.

This project will be constructed in fourteen phases at an estimated cost of 17,120,000 rials and its sixth phase has been completed so far.

Moscow Urged to Adopt Realistic Approach to Tajikistan

LD2811103793 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tajikistan Tehran, Nov 28, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday [28 November] called on Moscow leaders to adopt a realistic approach to the problems in Tajikistan and respect the political aspirations of the Tajik nation before their support for a coup d'etat clique leads to catastrophe.

The editorial in the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said "the Russians should be wary of repeating the bitter experience in Afghanistan."

Referring to the recent visit by Tajik Prime Minister Abdulladzhanov to Moscow regarding the substitution of the new rouble for the old rouble, the paper noted that of all the republics that have emerged from the former Soviet Union, Tajikistan is the only country that has not been able to replace the old Russian rouble with an independent monetary unit.

It said that political and economic chaos reigns in Tajikistan and the ruling regime in Dushanbe relies more and more on Moscow and Tashkent for its survival.

"Dushanbe regime's increasing dependence on Moscow and Tashkent has reduced it to the status of a puppet regime.

"In a sense Abdulladzhanov's trip to Moscow must be seen both as an attempt to get financial aid and as an effort on the part of the Tajik prime minister to get reconciled with the Yeltsin faction."

The paper further referred to the view differences and the covert power struggle in Dushanbe adding that there

are also "serious differences of opinion in Moscow regarding the recent developments in Tajikistan as well as the future of that country."

"Pursuing such mirages and sinking in a new quagmire would not only be disastrous for the ailing Russian empire, it would also destabilize the entire region," concluded the editorial.

Velayati Views Attacks on French Interests, Other Issues

NC2711112793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 93 pp 1, 14

[Text] Tehran—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday denounced grenade attacks on the French Embassy and the office of the Air France here.

Two grenades were lobbed into the French Embassy compound in central Tehran, causing no injuries, and another was thrown into the Air France office in the Iranian capital, lightly wounding an airline employee on Nov. 9.

The information Ministry of Iran last week announced that terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) had their hand in the attacks of the French facilities here.

"We denounce the Monafeqin [Hypocrite—word used to describe the Mojahedin-e Khalq Orgnaization] (MKO's) attacks on the French Embassy and the office of the Air France," the minister said.

Velayati, however, underlined the importance of granting asylum to Maryam Rajavi, wife of the terrorist leader, Mas'ud Rajavi by France and said, "It has an impact on the Irano-French relations."

"On the one hand the West including France condemns terrorism and on the other they give asylum to these unwanted unsocial elements of the world society," Velayati said and pointed out that such a policy can easily be a "double standard".

"To give asylum to such an element by France contradicts that country's claim on nurturing democracy and human rights," Dr. Velayati told the TEHRAN TIMES in an exclusive interview.

"I hope that French officials will revise their policy on the terrorists before Tehran-Paris relations become further tensed," Dr. Velayati said.

He expressed deep concern over the continuing crisis in the Caucasus region and said, "Iran is ready to do what is in its reach to silence the guns over there and pave the way for peace."

Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov is due to arrive here for talks with Iranian officials, and Iran is sending a special envoy to Yerevan for talks with Armenian officials. "Are you trying to say that Iran is again trying to mediate between the two republics of the former Soviet Union?"

"Yes", Dr. Velayati responded.

"We will spare no chance for doing anything through which peace can be retained in the region," the minister said.

"On the international level," he said, "We had our share and efforts for getting through a Security Council resolution on the Caucasus region."

The conflict between the Azerbaijan Republic and Armenian Republic started on the disputed enclave Nagorno-Karabakh in Feb. 1988. Over 15,000 people were killed and over one million became homeless.

As a result of the recent attack of Armenians on the Azeris hundreds of thousands of Azeris became refugees and Tehran is shouldering their responsibility single-handedly.

Dr. Velayati complained of the silence of the international bodies on this issue and said that "even the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) did not give a hand to Iran."

Dr. Velayati said the visit of Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sa'd al-Faysal was delayed and "for that Iran is not responsible."

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited Baghdad last month for talks on various issues highlighting the prisoners of war.

The two sides decided that Iran and Iraqi talks should continue further for that Under Secretary al-Faysal was due here in the Iranian capital on Friday.

"I believe they (the Iraqi officials) did not come here because of a presence of an expert delegation of the United Nations that arrived here on Sunday to probe into Baghdad's chemical bombardment in the southern Iraqi marshlands," he said.

"Anyway," he said, "the delays of such diplomatic visits are common in diplomatic norms and our own delegation headed by Mr. Zarif was delayed for Baghdad."

"And you know Iran cannot object on the right step of the United Nations and the visit of the experts on toxic bombs has nothing to do with us," Dr. Velayati said.

"We have been the greatest victim of the chemical bombs in the past and we cannot create the hurdles in the way of counter moves on chemical and atomic issues." he said.

Dr. Velayati maintained that Iran was ready to receive the Iraqi delegation in the near future.

The foreign minister denied a report printed in a morning daily here that said Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has proposed that Ankara would take action to root out Kurdish rebels in the Iranian region of Maku, close to the border with Turkey.

"No," he said, "such a report is absolutely wrong and this issue was not aired during the meeting of Turkish prime minister and our deputy foreign minister.

Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi met with Turkish prime minister in Ankara on Friday and discussed matters of mutual, regional and international interests.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Danish Official Discuss Ties

LD3011204793 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Deputy foreign minister of Denmark, Ole Pensman Poulsen, in a meeting here today with deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, underlined establishment of constructive ties between Iran and Denmark and welcomed further expansion of bilateral relations.

Poulsen hailed Islamic Iran's influential role in the region in the interests of peace and stability.

Va'ezi briefed Poulsen on Islamic Republic of Iran's stands towards regional issues and termed denmark as "one of Iran's friends" in the European Community (EC).

He said Tehran and Copenhagen favour further expansion of Iran's relations with EC, and praised Denmark's efforts in this respect.

The two officials also referred to Iran's efforts to maintain peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region, Afghanistan and in the Caucasus.

Poulsen arrived here on Monday heading a high ranking delegation to hold talks with various Iranian officials.

Denmark, Greece and Belgium are current members the three-nation board of chairmen of the EC known as troika.

President Meets Sierra Leonean Special Envoy

LD2811114793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the special envoy of the chairman of the Sierra Leone Supreme Council of State, (Mokhtar Mostafa), this morning.

At the meeting, the Sierra Leone special envoy submitted to the president a written message by the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Supreme Council of State. In that message, the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Supreme Council of State, referring to the progress made by Iran in recent years, has expressed the hope that Sierra Leone, as an Islamic state, be able to emulate Iran in constructeness and progress.

Reporting about the internal situation in Sierra Leone, the special envoy said: Our country, just like Iran, is beset by the animosity and enmity of the world arrogance, and there is an attempt at the global level to impose a unipolar system on the world. Referring to the false claims by organizations affiliated with the world powers in support of human rights, he said: Those who have the instruments of world propaganda in their hands propagate adverse propaganda against those states which seek to safeguard their independence, and they attempt to bring psychological pressure to bear against them.

He said: Sierra Leone is interested in expanding its ties with Iran in all dimensions.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, stressing that the world arrogance is powerless to infiltrate the united ranks of nations, said: The successful experience of Iran—which has managed to strengthen itself daily despite the wishes of its enemies—has proven that. He added: The attempts by world powers to inflict blows against those systems which enjoy popular support have always been neutralized.

The president, thanking the Sierra Leonean authorities for their stances regarding world issues, said: Iran is ready to put its experiences at the disposal of Sierra Leone.

HAMSHAHRI Interviews Interior Minister

NC2811105793 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 21 Nov 93 p 11

["Exclusive" interview with Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] The French Embassy in Tehran and the Air France offices were recently attacked. What is your opinion about this?

[Besharati] Fifteen years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic is considered to be one of the most stable countries in the world. Such acts are not acceptable in any way, and whoever is responsible for the explosion should be arrested and punished. According to the Vienna Convention, it is the duty of the host country to safeguard embassies and foreign diplomatic missions. Therefore, it is our duty to ensure the security of the embassies, and we will definitely do so.

[Correspondent] What is our opinion on HAMSHAHRI?

[Besharati] [passage omitted] In the short time that HAMSHAHRI has been published, not only has it been able to find its place in the domestic press world, but it is also taken into consideration by the scientific, cultural, artistic, social, and political circles. This is a noteworthy accomplishment. I think that HAMSHAHRI has been able to find supporters in society.

In my capacity as the interior minister, I think that HAMSHAHRI is a newspaper of special standards, not only in form, but also in content, and its high circulation is proof of this. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is your opinion about the city councils and the direct municipality elections? Do you agree with this plan?

[Besharati] This plan has been sent to the Majles, and we are waiting for the Majles' views on it. We will implement any decision by the Majles that is also approved by the Council of Guardians.

[Correspondent] You meet with the public on Mondays. How long will this program continue? Also, do you think that in a society where law rules, there is a need for solving the people's problems through such means?

[Besharati] I think that any success we have is reflected in the public. One of the most enjoyable aspects of my work is my meetings with the people. [passage omitted] If we have a popular system, then our officials should also be popular in nature. Such meetings will continue as long as I am in the ministry. I plan to brief the cabinet on the outcome of my meetings and to propose that other ministers meet with the people.

[Correspondent] The bill for the second Five-Year Plan is being discussed by the cabinet and will be handed to the Majles soon. Wouldn't it have been better to publish this bill for public perusal and comment before sending it to the Majles?

[Besharati] This bill is now being discussed by the cabinet. If observers and interested people have proposals to make, they can state their views. The text of this bill has been published in the newspapers for public perusal.

[Correspondent] According to UN figures, Iran has accepted the largest number of refugees, including refugees from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Iraq. What is the Islamic Republic's general policy on refugees, and are we able to shoulder the heavy economic burden of hosting these refugees on our own?

[Besharati] It is a very well-known fact that we are the only country in the world to receive such a high number of refugees. I should also mention that we did not invited them to come here, but the vastness of our country, the diversity and large number of neighbors that we have, the long borders that we have with our neighbors, and the existence of crises in neighboring countries have transferred some of the crises in these countries to our country. We cannot close our borders. There are international laws and regulations on refugees. Representatives of the UNHCR have come to Iran on several occasions and have seen the problems that we face. They have also extended some facilities to some of the refugees so that they can voluntarily return to their countries. In the next few days, a UN delegation will probably be coming to our country to study the situation of the Iraqi refugees.

[Correspondent] It is said that the Armenians are approaching the Khoda Afarin Dam in the Republic of Azerbaijan. How correct is this information?

[Besharati] We have repeatedly warned the Armenians and have drawn a red line between them and us, telling them that if they cross this red line, they will have to confront us. The Khoda Afarin Dam was built through cooperation between us and the Republic of Azerbaijan and attacking it will be considered aggression against our territorial integrity and a threat to our interests. We have warned the Armenians not to attack the dam installations. We want to maintain impartiality in this war, and we are advising both sides to display self-restraint. We believe that their problems should be solved through talks.

[Correspondent] At the beginning of your appointment as interior minister, you commented on the security of the society and said: Security should be established in such a way that people will be able to leave their houses open. Do you think that we have reached this favorable state of security in society? There is also the issue of border security and the fight against smugglers. What is your view on this?

[Besharati] We are seeking to ensure this favorable security.

Our people are honest in nature, and we should seek their help in ensuring security. In every society, there is a group that does not obey the laws. A society is like a family, and, like in a family in which one of the children may be disobedient, one group in a society may not want to obey the laws. Laws and regulations are for everyone. More than 90 percent of the people obey the laws, while 10 percent obstruct them. We are aiming our plans at this minority, and we seek the help of the 90 percent to rectify the 10 percent.

We have a plan under which we can establish an acceptable level of security. We hope that with the implementation of this plan, we will be able to create favorable security for the people. However, there is currently security in our country, and this security is much greater than in many of the world's developed countries. This is something that those who have gone abroad and visited other countries can vouch for.

The problem of security along the borders is created by non-Iranians. They are the ones who transfer the crisis to us along our long borders. There are crises in some neighboring countries, and this affects our borders. For example, Pakistan's military-political presence along our 700 km of common border is faint [as published], and the problems faced by the Afghan Government, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Turkey also affect our borders.

We have two alternatives to solve this problem. One is to consolidate and expand political-economic relations with these countries, and the other is through domestic solutions. We are taking certain steps toward this. In other words, we are constructing border roads in order to control the borders. We are strengthening our border outposts, creating a more serious military presence on

our borders, and establishing control over the routes used by smugglers and making serious efforts to confront them.

[Correspondent] My next question is about the political activities of parties. Do you intend to allow parties the right to be active? What is your general opinion about this?

[Besharati] I have a personal view and a legal view on this issue, with preference for the latter view over the former. Ours is a free country, and any person with any mode of thought can be active within the framework of the Constitution and the laws approved by the Majles. For our part, we study the parties' constitutions and charters and issue permits to them within the framework of law.

My personal view is that the sense of freedom in any society should be as strong as the slogans for freedom. The record of parties and groups in Iran has not been successful.

Thus, our people do not have pleasant associations about parties and groups, and those who want to form groups on the basis of law should take into consideration the psychological impacts of this. Personally, I want legal groups to exist. Of course, this is my assessment. But within my capacity as interior minister, I completely agree that parties should be active within the framework of the Constitution and the public's beliefs.

[Correspondent] Why aren't parties active in Iran's political scene?

[Besharati] I believe that the reason for this is that the people themselves are not interested in such groups. Since the last years of the Qajar dynasty and the first years of Pahlavi rule, and especially until the 19 August [1953] coup, there were many groups and parties, but the outcome of their activities was not positive. The people believe that parties usually lean toward the left, the right, or betrayal. One of the strongest parties at that time was the Tudeh Party. But, after its leaders were arrested, we saw how this party followed Moscow's orders in every detail. After the revolution, many groups emerged on Iran's political scene, but all of them dissolved because they were unsuccessful. Only a group that has a series of slogans and principles that are attractive to the people can be successful. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that we believe that politics and religion are one, why have we been unable to create a political-religious party?

[Besharati] Forming parties is not part of Islam, because Islam itself is a party. Political parties seek things other than Islam. They believe that in order to make matters progress, they should seek associates so that if they are able to come to power they can easily choose their pawns and conduct affairs. This is the final and ultimate goal of each and every party. According to the religious scholars, a party is an end and not a means. In other words, the ultimate goal of a party is to achieve power. A party is not a means; it is an end. The reason for the failure of parties in Iran is that, next to a strong party like Islam, no other group can be formed. [passage omitted]

The topic of parties is a very good one. Observers should sit down and discuss the mode of activities and the rise and fall of parties, and you would be doing a good job if you started this discussion.

We discuss this topic twice a week. We study the list of parties that are requesting permits and grant permits to most of them. So far, more than 50 political groups have been granted permits.

The shah's regime, with all its might and power, formed only two parties—the Iran-e Novin and Mardom parties. The shah created parties in order to resist pressure from the West, which considered him to be a dictator, and to show them that he was not.

The shah dissolved his two parties and created the Rastakhiz Party. He did everything he could in order to stay in power as long as possible. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is your assessment of the three months since you were appointed as interior minister?

[Besharati] It is very difficult to assess the activities in the Interior Ministry in a year, let alone in 90 days, because of the vastness and diversity of its activities. The law-enforcement force is in itself like a big ministry. The Tehran Municipality, with its 50,000-strong personnel and its 700-billion-rial budget, is like a big ministry. [passage omitted]

But my associates and I see a great deal of enthusiasm and zeal among the people. At the end of my meetings with the public, I feel a great sense of public satisfaction, especially when their problems are solved. [passage omitted]

Some officials thought that after my appointment, I would bulldoze all the employees in the Interior Ministry, but then they realized that this was not so. I have retained some of the deputies of [former Interior Minister] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Nuri. Most of the officials in the provinces have also been retained, and we are cooperating with each other. I consider this coordination and this sincere atmosphere to be a divine blessing. Of course, my personal belief is that God is satisfied when the people are satisfied.

[Correspondent] How many hours do you work each day?

[Besharati] Some nights, I sleep only a few hours. Since I do not have much time for thinking during the day, I do my thinking either early in the morning or late at night when I am extremely tired. This is especially true of Mondays, when I have my meetings with the public.

IRGC Commander Delivers Speech at Navy Day Ceremonies

LD2811115393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Today is Navy Day and special ceremonies were held in the first naval district of Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Province, to mark the occasion. Our correspondent reports from the Persian Gulf Bureau:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The ceremonies were attended by the honorable families of martyrs and local officials from Hormozgan Province. Major General Guard Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], delivered a speech, in which he commemorated the anniversary of the epic-making devotees of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: By trying to gain mastery over Islamic Iran's oil platforms and naval resources in the Persian Gulf, the Americans were hoping to achieve a military-strategic position in the region. We saw, however, that the brave struggle of our naval combatants against the aggressor Americans foiled their calculations and dreams and inflicted defeat on them.

He added: The strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on cooperation with the neighboring countries of the southern Persian Gulf. It has always been based on the idea that the security of the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman must be maintained by the countries of the region. [passage omitted]

Let me add that, at the end of the ceremonies, model units of the Army and the law enforcement forces marched past the review stand, thereby renewing their pledge of allegiance to the blessed martyrs of the Islamic revolution and affirming their commitment to protect Islam and the Islamic revolution. [end recording]

Further on Dispute Between Majles, Radio-TV Broadcasting

RESALAT Calls For Apology From Radio-TV Head

NC2711212293 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 Nov 93 pp 1,2

[From the "Domestic Political Desk" feature: "What Should Be Done?"]

[Excerpts] The response by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the research and investigative panel of the Islamic Majles continues to be a serious issue in domestic politics. The following points are worth considering in this regard:

1. There is no doubt that the dissemination of the response by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the national radio network was an irresponsible act, because Article 76 of the Constitution stipulates that research and inquiry are inviolable rights of the Majles.

Apart from defaming the sanctity of the Islamic Majles and the respected deputies, the response of the Voice and Vision was inadequately reasoned.

If we assume that in the research and investigation report, there were some remarks which were removed from reality, the same institution that is being investigated does not have the authority to make such assertions! That institution can defend itself to a judicial tribunal, and if its rights have been violated it can take steps for the vindication of its rights. [passage omitted]

2. Since the second part of the response by the Voice and Vision was not disseminated, it appears that this decision was a hasty and erroneous one and the question arises: In such an important matter, why did the chief of the Voice and Vision act in such a willful way? What is the punishment in such cases?

3. The qualifications of deputies come within the scope of the Executive Committee, the Guardians council, as well as the Majles. At the beginning of each term, the deputies pursue this matter themselves. In any case, the fact that a deputy has won a seat in the Majles is in itself confirmation that he is qualified in the eyes of the people who voted for him, as well as in the eyes of other deputies. How could it be possible for an organization that has been subjected to investigation and inquiry due to its flawed performance, to question the qualifications of deputies?

The defamation of the sanctity of the Majles and its deputies in the first part of the Voice and Vision's response was unprecedented. and it should certainly make amends. The general public awaits the restoration of the reputation of the deputies who have been defamed.

4.Among the insults that have been slung about in the form of falsehoods and accusations, one claim in the first part of the response by the Voice and Vision pertains to the hallowed figure of Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him). [passage omitted]

Does the head of the Voice and Vision claim that all the programs are instructive? Defamation of Islamic sanctities was the object of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's criticism, so what were the objectives of the Voice and Vision in presenting its programs? Were they educational, informative, instructive, or entertaining; and did they provide Islamic guidance?

Regardless of what punishment is stipulated by law, the chief of the Voice and Vision should certainly apologize for the false claims he has made regarding Imam Khomeyni and also to the deputies.

Majles Issues Statement

NC2711162493 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Following the unlawful broadcast of the response by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the report by the Majles research and investigation panel in which defamatory remarks have been made against some Majles deputies, the Islamic Majles Public Relations Department has issued a statement which it sent to KEYHAN. According to our parliamentary correspondent, part of the statement is as follows:

The system of our government relies on two pillars: Islam and the people of the republic. These constitute the basis for the Islamic values and injunctions which are dispensed through the leadership of the Vali-ye Amr-e Muslimin [Guardian of the Muslims Cause] of the republic, and the will of the nation based on the acceptance of this kind of government and manifested in its determination. It is on this basis that the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken shape; and in the words of the late imam—may God be pleased with him—"not one word more nor less."

In another section of the statement it is asserted: The Islamic Majles approved the report on the performance of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran over ten years, following which, in accordance with the Constitution, the compiled report was disseminated for the information of the general public. Unfortunately, the management of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran reacted hastily and initiated an innovative trend by distorting the inalienable right of the Majles and presenting a detailed statement that is a conglomeration of accusations, insults, and unethical issues in response to the research and investigation panel's report.

If the management really believed that there should be a response to the documented and proven remarks by the panel, it should have submitted its logical response to the Majles instead of responding to all these documented remarks with censure, fabrications, and impudence and disseminating the response through the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran—the seat of the great university of Islam—in contravention of all rules and regulations.

As has been stated, the powers of every institution and its chief fall within the framework of regulations, which it is obligated to comply with, and any abuse of these existing resources will not escape detection by officials.

Therefore, we draw the attention of the martyr-nurturing nation to the following points:

1. By disseminating its response to the Islamic Majles' research and investigative panel's report on the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the management of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran has laid the groundwork for an innovative aberration, the consequences of which will only rebound on that organization.

2. The management of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran used its response to the research and investigative panel's report to make defamatory attacks on the Islamic Majles deputies, the panel itself, and Esfahan Deputy Parvaresh, whose dedication, integrity, valor and struggle has been certified by numerous God-seeking Hezbollahi persons. It should answer to judicial authorities for these stances, which violate the shari'ah and all ethics.

3. In its fourth term, the Islamic Majles tried its utmost to mitigate tension and to keep this hallowed tribune [preceding word in English] from becoming an arena for altercations. It is obvious that as long as the sovereign rights of the Majles are not jeopardized, the Majles will continue to adhere to this policy.

4. In another reaction, the management of the Voice and Vision has cast aspersions on the 10 years of resistance and steadfastness of the noble Mr. Yahyavi, which were spent in the Iraqi government's dungeons, by interpreting it as a sojourn abroad and as non-participation in the efforts of the management of the Voice and Vision. We leave this matter to the judgment of our martyr-nurturing nation.

5. The Islamic Majles will not endeavor to answer this statement by the management of the Voice and Vision but condemns this action on its part as an innovative act of heresy which has tarnished the legitimate rights of one of the most important institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and will make all efforts to eliminate this evil tradition.

6. The Islamic Majles and deputies of the Fourth Term believe that the delegation of the right of supervision to the Majles can prove a reliable means for safeguarding the course of the Revolution and its values. It is on the basis of this principle and faith in the Almighty, as well as obedience to the exhortations of the great leader and on the basis of the wishes of the majority of devout Muslim people that the Majles will continue to use these rights and act on the principle of conducting research and investigation and will present the findings for the information of our noble people.

Blessings and salutations of God be upon you.

[Signed] The General Office of Cultural Affairs and Public Relations of the Islamic Majles

Majles-IRIB Debate Discussed

NC2711120793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Dispute Between the Parliament and the IRIB"]

[Text] In recent days, hot debates are in force between the Majles (Islamic Consultative Assembly) and the management of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB).

After a research and inquiry report was prepared by the Majles and submitted to the press, the IRIB showed a hasty reaction and embarked upon responding to the charges. The IRIB did so by way of airing its response on radio.

Without a shade of doubt, research and inquiry is a major duty of the Majles. This duty has, in fact, been vested upon this salient and key body by the Constitution. In principle, over the past four terms of the Majles, if this responsibility had been optimally performed, today we would not have faced many tangles in the state bodies and organizations.

Basically, it is not befitting to attempt to undermine an institution such as the Majles and to tarnish such an apt move as conducting research and inquiry in its prime. But in continued performance of such a massive duty, the Majles should consider the following points in a drive to improve its measures:

1. Under no conditions should there be political groupings and sidetakings in research and inquiry. If groupings are taken into account, the credibility of the Majles will dwindle, and the upshot of this will be the debilitation of the revolution and the system on the whole.

2. The group in charge of research and inquiry should be possessed of due expertise on the subject under consideration; otherwise, the credibility of the report that is prepared will falter.

In addition, as per certain issues under survey, such as cultural matters, the group in charge should be open-minded enough to take the subject in hand. For instance, in the recent report prepared by the Majles on the performance of the IRIB, there were mainly two parts dealing with financial and management affairs. At any rate, the first part entails close and meticulous survey and the offenders should be brought to book. But in the second part dealing with the programs prepared by the IRIB, so far the research team has shown some narrow-mindedness.

This is especially of prime importance in view of the cultural inroad and devices such as videos and satellites at the disposal of the enemies. Pitifully, this part has marred the credibility of the report. This, however, does not mean that the hasty response and mistake of the management of the IRIB in undermining the research and inquiry team—which will in turn debilitate the Majles itself—should be winked at.

Former Minister Interviewed on Democracy

NC2611123393 Tehran ADINEH in Persian 23 Oct-21 Nov 93 pp 16-18

[Interview with 'Ali Ardalan, member of the Leadership Council of the Second National Front and minister of economy and finance during the provisional government; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [ADINEH] Despite our nation's efforts to achieve social and democratic freedoms, these freedoms have not been established in Iran. In your opinion, what elements have been instrumental in this?

[Ardalan] Democracy, which means a government by the people, is not a new phenomenon. It has been tested and implemented for centuries in various societies in the world and it has been a factor in the progress and development of nations. Democracy is also a word of which we in Iran have known for a long time. It has numerous supporters, and there have been many attempts to achieve it.

As for your question on why democracy has not been established in our country in the true sense of the word, history shows that our dear country has always been under despotic rule at various junctures and for many years on end. Despots have always concentrated all their efforts and strength on achieving greater domination, regardless of the violence and inhuman acts it took.

If, after the Constitutional Movement [1906] and in the period following it, possibilities emerged at various junctures in history for our nation to be liberated from oppression and tyranny, these eras cannot be considered as the era of democracy but the era when dictatorships disintegrated. They should not be described as an era when the nation achieved democracy, since in the brief period after pressures and suppression eased, the people might have found an opportunity to cry out their complaints and denounce their deprivations. But since, during the black era of despotism, they had not been taught the ways of freedom and were not acquainted with the culture of freedom in order to be able to make use of its benefits, they would pursue personal spite and the settling of personal accounts and would not correctly seize the opportunity that had been granted to them.

Also, often during these brief periods elements of the old regime, puppets of colonialism, and expert pawns of tyranny remained in power and did their best to prevent them from achieving freedom and getting their natural and social rights. By spreading discord and resorting to hostile acts they prevented the people from participating in the country's affairs and prevented them from expressing their will in free elections. Minions of colonialist policies and colonialist elements who naturally had very close bonds with each other used all possible means to prevent nationalist and popular rule and the establishment of democracy and the strengthening of nationalistic and freedom-seeking sentiments. They always worked to crush popular forces who enjoyed the nation's support, because social and national solidarity would have led to the establishment of democracy and of the people's rule which would, in turn, mean the decline and overthrow of bullies and puppets.

Therefore, they tried very hard to keep the nation in a state of deprivation, even in an era that could hardly be called the era of democracy and true freedom, and they strove to continue their tyrannical domination. And

unfortunately, with the resources that they had at their disposal, they were able to do so.

[ADINEH] Industrial development is one of our nation's needs. A group that propounds the need for industrial development believes that in marginal societies or in the Third World the only way to achieve industrial development is through dictatorship. In view of the Iranian nation's historical experience, how correct is this belief?

[Ardalan] This is an interesting question that contains some noteworthy points, especially since you said that this is what certain people who have definite specific social and political views believe. These people are acquainted with ancient and modern world history. They are not oblivious of the tragic heroic figures who lost their lives under dictatorships and tyrannies and of the sufferings of people whose numberless oppressed voices have resounded, and still resound, throughout the world. But it is interesting how this "group" is seeking to find adherents for the tattered idea of dictatorship—and doing so among people who have lost everything they have to dictators, that is, people in the Third World—as a means of liberating themselves from backwardness!

Although "Third World societies" do not grow politically and economically, clearly their material and intellectual poverty is not something that they themselves desire. Despotic and colonialist regimes have been the reason for the backwardness of the Third World. As for how this group feels that the problems stemming from dictators can be solved by dictatorships, this is exactly what Manuchehr Damghan meant when he said that "the antidote for a scorpion's bite is scorpion poison." [passage omitted]

[ADINEH] The Human Rights Declaration stresses various freedoms. What is the possibility of these freedoms being established in marginal societies that have been kept backward?

[Ardalan] Basically speaking, the Human Rights Declaration, which is apparently accepted by all governments and all nations, stems from the natural rights of man and is generally based on support for the rights of societies. It calls for the bolstering of freedoms and clarifies that nations should be able to live in a free atmosphere. "Every person has the right to live, the right to freedom, and the right to personal security." Therefore, all human beings can enjoy the principles of democracy and freedom.

The possibility for the points contained in the Human Rights Declaration to be implemented in "backward" countries depends on the determination of the populace in those countries. Its implementation is contingent on efforts by oppressed peoples and nations whose rights have been trampled on—that is, nations that "have been kept backward" and belong to the Third World. Generally speaking, it is the societies themselves that have to support human rights and not the countries and the governments under whose banner they are living and which have taken force, bullying, despotism, and self-centeredness as the main focus of their activities...

[ADINEH] World developments project a picture of possible democracy and basic freedoms in Third World or marginal countries. How can the people in these countries achieve freedom and democracy?

[Ardalan] It is very difficult for the peoples of the Third World to attain independence and freedom under any circumstances. Furthermore, maintaining independence and freedom calls for sacrifices and persistent efforts by nations—something which will not be very easy. But, at any rate, it is not impossible. Even though in the past the existence of two superpowers prevented the complete domination of one superpower or the other, nevertheless the presence of superpowers was a pretext and means for dependence and was also a dam holding back independence and freedom. But with the changes and developments that we have ahead, the future will show that developing countries can—through harder efforts and alertness—achieve their freedom-seeking and independence-seeking objectives much easier.

It seems that there will be fewer political obstacles and colonialist intentions than in the past, and the possibilities for nations to grow on the basis of healthy economic programs will increase. However, generally speaking, achieving independence and freedom call for people to struggle persistently in order to remove obstacles and achieve unity and solidarity when participating in political and social affairs.

[ADINEH] The activities of political parties is one of the attributes and bases of democracy and freedom. Meanwhile, for various reasons our nation has not had the opportunity to experience democracy or to learn about freedoms in its social life. What is your view on the need to learn democracy?

[Ardalan] It is up to the law to delineate the borders of freedom and to ensure it. If the true deputies of the people approve the law and if the judicial and executive organs act without any bias, then many of the political, social, judicial, and even economic obstacles will be removed. Not observing and not respecting the law will upset the social system, spread social corruption, lead to dictatorship, and to licentiousness by the people. Many observers believe that the implementation of an incomplete law is much more beneficial for society than the implementation of no law at all, which can lead to absolute anarchy.

As for political parties, I would say that they constitute one of the pillars of democracy. Parties are actually a school of thought in which socially-geared and interested responsible people are trained. National and independent parties do not allow subversive and harmful elements to thrive; and one of the characteristics of parties and of a group of people with the same trend of thought that they expose the activities and efforts by such elements.

You referred to the teaching of democracy. Since people are not trained to carry out political and social activities and have always lived in an oppressive atmosphere, each time they get an opportunity and each time a free atmosphere is created, they break the chains of bondage and resort to chaos, which sometimes leads to insurgency and rebellion. Of course, nothing more can be expected of them, because teaching human beings is possible only in an atmosphere of freedom. In the darkness of dictatorship where flatterers and subservient elements usually are active, a favorable atmosphere for nurturing outstanding personalities can never be created.

In a dictatorship, there is a brain drain toward places that offer a possibility for growth. Even though when they say that freedom for parties leads to chaos they are drawing a spiteful conclusion, nevertheless it should be noted that the implementation of the law prevents disorder and chaos. Of course, self-centered governments feigning democracy want to portray each freedom-seeking act by groups and by the press as being antistate and rebellious acts that are contrary to the country's interests, and they even claim such acts by groups and the press are being backed by foreigners.

Under democratic rule, the existence of parties and groups is among the requirements; and the absence of parties and of groups is a sign of the nonparticipation of the people in the country's affairs. Parties that have overt and legal activities with declared platforms and objectives can be effective in national affairs and can assist and guide the leadership. If not, then private groups and covert factions will replace parties and will impose their views on a group that does not have a specific platform. These groups and factions do not represent public opinion in order to help the government overcome problems.

If a regime is not afraid and does not create obstacles, the people can get democratic experience under the aegis of law; and in this way, no problems will emerge. But if, when a dictatorship is removed and enraged, spiteful people suddenly enter the social and political scene, the same kind of chaos and disorder that we have witnessed will emerge.

[ADINEH] One of the rich experiences in Iran's history is the establishment of democracy during Mosaddeq's national rule, when national independence and social and political freedoms were highlighted. In your opinion, what lessons can we learn from that era?

[Ardalan] When the late Dr. Mosaddeq was elected prime minister, he presented a very simple two-point program to the Majles:

1. The implementation of the law on nationalization of oil throughout the country; and

2. Revising the Majles and municipalities' election laws.

The general objective behind the first was to uproot foreign influence, or in other words, to gain independence. And the objective behind the second was to establish the people's rule through the election of their own representatives, or in other words, the establishment of democracy.

He was very well aware that the presence of the oil company was a means for Britain's interference in all of the country's affairs; and he knew very well that Britain's deep and complicated intervention was preventing the fulfillment of national aspirations and hindering affairs and progress. Therefore, he focused all his efforts on ending the domination by that hellish power and on dismantling colonialism. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mosaddeq considered it necessary to revise the election law in order to establish the people's rule. It is very clear that if a nation is free in electing its representatives and the people participate in the country's affairs through a government they choose, then many of the country's problems can be solved. But if people do not consider the regime to be what they have chosen and do not back up what the government does and are not satisfied, aside from the fact that they will not cooperate, they will also react negatively or be indifferent. No matter how hard the efforts of governments that do not respect their nation's will, that do not attach importance to people and who respond to people's demands by crushing them, they cannot succeed and the outcome will always be negative.

Experience shows that respecting the law, encouraging the people's participation, and respecting public opinion should top the list of the programs of governments that claim to want to serve their nation and country.

Assyrian Church Leader Satisfied With Religious Freedoms

LD2811130893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The world leader of the Assyrian church of the East has stressed: In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the freedoms defined in the constitution for religious minorities are correctly observed. The leader of the Eastern Assyrian church took part, this morning, in the religious ceremony of Tehran's Assyrians and said: From the point of view of maintaining their identity, religious commitment, traditional language, and the observance of religious occasions, Iran's Assyrians enjoy complete freedom and, because of the freedom granted to us by the Iranian system, people are prepared to give their lives for their homeland.

The head of the Eastern Assyrian church, who arrived in Tehran on Friday, said in today's ceremony: In Western countries, Assyrian traditions, culture, and language are gradually being forgotten and it is impossible to preserve the culture and traditions.

The Assyrian leader, who is a temporary resident of the United States, referred to his visits to Australia, Canada, Syria, and Iraq, undertaken for the purpose of assessing the situation of Assyrians, and confirmed his satisfaction regarding the situation of Assyrians in Iran compared with those other countries.

Pakistan

Religious Leaders React to Rushdie-Clinton Talks

NC0112103193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistani religious leaders condemned the U.S. President's meeting with the author of the *Satanic Verses*. According to the Central News Unit from Islamabad, the leader of the Tehrik-e Fiqh-e Nefaz-e Ja'fariyah [Movement for the Implementation of Ja'fari, Shiite, jurisprudence] described this meeting as an act of insolence against the Islamic world and stressed: The support and backing of the apostate Rushdie is overt evidence of U.S. animosity toward Islam.

While expressing support for the historical fatwa [religious decree] of his eminence imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—on the obligation to kill the writer of the book *Satanic Verses*, Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi elaborated that Western support could not change the decision of the Muslims.

The secretary general of the Islamic secretary of the Theologians of Pakistan expressed his indignation on the meeting between Clinton and Rushdie, and said: The U.S. President has wounded the sensitivities of the Islamic world.

'Big Plot' Against Islam Seen

LD3011141593 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 30, OANA-IRNA—Leader of Religious Unity Front and secretary of Islamic Association of Theologians of Pakistan, Molana Samie Al-Haq, here Tuesday described the meeting between the U.S. President Bill Clinton and the apostate writer, Salman Rushdie, as a big plot against the world of Islam.

In a statement he said that the meeting showed the deep-rooted animosity of the American President against Muslims. Clinton through this move made himself the biggest terrorist, Pakistani religious leader said.

He called on leaders of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Islamic world to officially protest against the meeting.

Bhutto's Brother Views Policy Toward U.S.

BK2811090793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Nov 93 p 7

[Exclusive article by Mir Murtaza Bhutto entitled: "Capping Is Like Roll-Back"]

[Text] The international community has entered, unguided and without design, into an environment which has no precedent in the history of nation states. This is the third type of global power configuration to have evolved in this century. The dynamics of its structural, as well as functional nature, are unique. Hence Pakistan, like most other nations, will have to adjust its position and devise its policy according to this new reality.

The first historical epoch—Europe's Classical Balance of Power Systems—an intricate, yet delicate, system of shifting alliances fell apart twice this century leading to two world wars.

The emerging bipolar world, characterised by the thermonuclear global rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, came to an abrupt end with the collapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union and its empire in Eastern Europe. (I have it on good authority that Brig. Imtiaz had nothing to do with this).

The new reality—the New World Order, if you must—is of a single global military, economical and technological power, the United States of America. Allied to it is the industrial might of Europe and Japan. The United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other such international organizations are as autonomous from this power structure as Outer Mongolia was from the Soviet Union.

The purpose here is to take a hard, objective and dispassionate view of the new global realities and suggest measures that would be necessary to adopt in order to enhance our enlightened national interest in our dealings with the United States.

Strategic value: Pakistan, as many other US allies, cannot seem to comprehend why their consistent relationship of solidarity with the US is not paying dividends and rewards like in the past. Why are certain deviances, ignored before, being frowned upon now? Why this sudden restriction of latitude?

Surely, situated at the mouth of the Gulf, bordering revolutionary Iran on its West, a turbulent and fundamentalist Afghanistan on the North-West, China's strategic and sensitive South-Western provinces in the North and the Soviet Union's traditional ally, India, on the East, Pakistan has a strategic value which must be of vital interest to the United States.

In fact, with the collapse of communism and with it the end of the superpower nuclear contest, geo political considerations are of little importance in the pursuit of

American foreign policy. To play a significant role in regional and international politics, Pakistan will have to look beyond its geo-political position.

Domestic and foreign policy: Possession of a second-strike capability by both superpowers prevented an outbreak of general war between them. This second-strike capability meant that if one superpower launched all its nuclear missiles against the other, the other could absorb them and yet retaliate with sufficient missiles of its own to cause irreparable damage to the aggressor. Deterrence, therefore, was achieved through a policy of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). The paralysis that MAD thesis posed a serious dilemma for both powers: A general war would annihilate the human race; yet both powers had goals and interests across the globe that sometimes required the use of force. It therefore became important for both superpowers to cultivate the friendship of lesser states to further their interests by proxy.

In the reach for these allies, there was seldom ever a strict moral criterion. A clear divorce was made between a nation's domestic situation and the conduct of its foreign policy.

For Moscow, it was immaterial if Barre's Somalia was an Arab nationalist regime, India was a parliamentary democracy or Idi Amin was an insane hutcher. The essential element was not domestic ideology or behaviour, but that their foreign policy was in harmony with that of the USSR. They, therefore, became "progressive, and imperialist" allies of the Kremlin.

Similary, the United States propped up fascists like Ziaul Haq in Pakistan, Marcos in the Philippines and even Ceaucescu in communist Romania as vital ramparts of democracy and liberty, not because their domestic politics were patterned on America's own, but because their Foreign policy was consistent with its global interest.

This distinction now no longer exists for the only superpower in the new international order. Pakistan's old desire to be seen as the most allied ally is immaterial because the global competition that urgently required allies has finished. Since most nations are anyway competing for America's attention this only superpower is bound to place a great premium on the internal conditions of states it wishes to play ball with. With the hazards of deadly nuclear power struggle safely behind it, the United States has time and reason to give necessary attention to the moral principles of democracy and social justice outside its borders.

Under these conditions, Pakistan will have to concentrate on the following domestic concerns:

(A) It must not only continue, without interruption, the democratic process, but must improve on it. It will do no good to try and destabilize elected governments every few months, for politicians to subvert the results of the ballot box with huge infusions of cash or for the Armed Forces to be seen to be pulling the strings from behind. In addition, the dictatorial and anachronistic provisions of the 8th Amendment must be scrapped. Financial restrictions on electioneering must be strictly enforced. All parties must be made to disclose the extent of their funds, its sources and the manner in which it is utilised.

(B) Justice must be done and must be seen to be done for all citizens. It is imperative that the appointment of Judges of the High and Supreme Courts be de-linked from executive discretion and control. Judges must be elected rather than appointed. The provincial and National Assemblies should elect the judges of the High and Supreme Courts respectively after a proper debate and scrutiny in the relevant Houses.

In the rural areas, District Magistrates should be elected by elected District Council members. Further, a time frame must be specified in the Constitution whereby pending cases have to be brought for hearing before the courts to ensure speedy dispensation of justice. Also, the State must provide lawyers for the poor and a separate budget should be allocated for their defence.

(C) The menace of drugs will have to be squashed even if it requires extremely harsh measures. Similar measures will have to be taken against the evil of rape and crimes against children. A drug- infested and lawless Pakistan will not be able to play any significant role in the new international order.

(D) In searching for an active foreign policy role, the strength of Pakistan's economy will be as, if not more, important as its military might. Rampant corruption and mismanagement will have to be severely checked. Market forces will have to be allowed greater scope. A proper intrastructure of electricity, clean water, schools, hospitals, rural dispensaries and communications network will have to be established.

To alleviate the massive financial burden of our defence, a combination of a professional army and national conscription should be contemplated. This would mean a professional officer class and a smaller but better equipped, better trained, and better fed standing army. All citizens would then be required to serve a certain period (during a certain age) in the Armed forces as part of their national duty. All countries of the world, except five or six, have successfully adopted this system and Pakistan must seriously consider it too.

The United States and its allied power structure (industrialised states, IMF etc) are already beginning to show signs of charity- fatigue. Economically strong and vibrant states, on the other hand, will gradually have a greater role and voice in world affairs.

United Nations Peacekeeping: Participation in international peacekeeping missions is a relatively inexpensive, yet symbolically rewarding method of demonstrating solidarity with the UN/US combine. Political considerations, however, demand more discrimination in areas where Pakistan wants to send its Armed Forces as part of a multilateral effort. While it generally does no good for a state to involve itself in another's civil war, the

problem is compounded if the state is both Arab and Muslim. These states constitute Pakistan's natural allies in the world.

It was bad enough for national prestige to have lost, in an ambush, 23 brave soldiers at the hands of the Somali militia. It was worse to see our soldiers massacre unarmed civilian demonstrators in return. The whole ugly and avoidable episode won us no glory from the UN/US. It certainly did not make new friends for us among the Arabs nor did it endear us to the community of Muslim states.

If as a matter of policy we desire to involve ourselves in international peacekeeping, we must possess the discretion to choose where to go. Policing in Haiti or Cambodia, for example do not carry politically sensitive repercussions and hence do not involve the potential to damage our national standing.

Moreover, it would be more appropriate, as well as wise, to reconsider our enthusiasm for international policing until we set our own internal conditions on sounder footing. Perhaps, our participation with United Nations efforts does not cost us too much in terms of cash, but is more dignified if a state with no serious internal concerns of its own ventures abroad to settle other people's problems. A country facing severe economic and other domestic hardships wishing to do the same appears too eager to please. And when a state appears too eager to please, it wins neither respect nor praise. An assertive foreign policy will only be a credible if it presupposes a secure socio-economic domestic base.

Two paradoxical trends: The two seemingly contradictory trends on the international scene are towards integration in Western Europe and disintegration in other multi-nation states.

Those involved in the creation of a single (Western) European entity are countries with centuries of almost uninterrupted democracy, progress, civilisation, tolerance and self-sufficiency. These are in other words, satisfied states, seeking to enhance their common good through unity.

The trend towards secession and disintegration is conspicuous among multi-nation states with a long history of grievances. Whether it is the composite states of the former Soviet Union (and within them states like Georgia), Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia or Albania, all share a tradition of political repression, economic deprivation and social retardation. These are, so to speak, unsatisfied states, breaking away from the bondage of shared misery.

Pakistan being a multi-nation state will ignore these momentous developments only at its own peril. (We already have the dubious distinction of being the only state in the history of the world where the majority acceded from the minority).

The four federating units of our state need wise, humane and urgent attention to make them feel that they are a respected part of a common purpose and will receive their just share of political authority and economic benefits. Maximum provincial autonomy is not a vague philosophy but an imperative, an essential and concrete necessity. Each province must receive its due share of royalty for its natural resources, be it oil in Sindh, gas in Balochistan, gems in the Frontier or food and water in Punjab. The political authority of Sindh, long since usurped by the Centre, must be returned to it immediately and unconditionally.

In the "near abroad" it is tempting for a Muslim state like Pakistan to arrive at some formal, structural alliance with the newly independent Muslim states of the former Soviet Union. A multilateral arrangement of this sort must be avoid at least until:

These states develop a degree of self-confidence based on their economic progress and development of sound democratic institutions and practices; and till they overcome the psychological scare that many decades of wretched integration with other nationalities have left them.

In the meantime, Pakistan should pursue its foreign policy, commercial and cultural exchanges, firmly on the basis of bilateralism with these (and other) nations rather than attempting to squeeze into unworkable alliances which, like RCD [Regional Cooperation Development], SEATO [South-East Asia Treaty Organization] and CENTO [Central Treaty Organisaiton]. Such an attempt with invariably come to grief.

The nuclear programme: Though in many technical ways overlapping and intertwined, a nation's nuclear programme may be divided into two distinct parts; (A) Energy-oriented programme and (B) weapons programme.

(A) Industrialisation, technological progress and all aspects of civilised life have made all nations of the world dependent on energy. Without the largely imported oil that generates energy, Pakistan's industry would come to a standstill, its agriculture would be in ruins, its technology obliterated, its transport, infrastructure, Armed Forces and all manifestations of civilised life would be wiped out.

But since oil cannot be reproduced like wheat or rice, all nations have placed a premium on the search for alternative energy sources. These are mainly nuclear and solar energy.

Pakistan has precious little oil or gas of its own. If it does not develop its nuclear energy programme rapidly and completely, it will be catapulted, within our children's lifetime, back into the stone age. We have no choice, we have no alternative, we have no option, we have no recourse but to develop nuclear energy or suffer an unimaginable catastrophe.

(B) Pakistan has the capacity to produce nuclear weapons; the question is whether it has the will to do so.

"That it needs a nuclear deterrent against India's advanced nuclear-weapon programme is beyond debate.

A conventionally armed state cannot rely for defence against a much large adversary that also happens to have an operational nuclear weapons capacity.

The dynamics of conventional and nuclear strategy are qualitatively different. Attempts by a conventionally armed state to reconcile the two and formulate a war strategy thus against a nuclear armed adversary will lead to confusion and paralysis.

A nuclear armed country confronting a non-nuclear armed adversary also possesses an infinite capacity for blackmail. It can achieve its objectives and secure results of immense value without firing a shot. If shooting, however, does break out, the nuclear weapon state will possess a frightening psychological advantage that will prove crippling to the morale of its non-nuclear adversary. And if the nuclear-weapon state wishes to use its nuclear weapon, there would be no deterrent, as no fear of reprisals in kind would exist. It is not just the magnitude of destruction nuclear weapons cause, it is that they concentrate that destruction in terms of time and intensity.

A nuclear armed state also possesses the luxury of sharply reducing its bulky regular armed forces to a better equipped, better-fed fighting trim shape. A leaner and meaner fighting machine will allow badly-needed cash to be diverted to its socio- economic sector. Nuclear weapons are good for the economy. They are also absolutely vital for the defence of a state whose adversary already has a demonstrated nuclear capability.

Until recently, there were only five established nuclear powers: The United States, Soviet Union, France, United Kingdom and the Peoples Republic of China. Now there are the new nuclear weapon states of Ukraine (1,100 nuclear missiles) Georgia and Kazakhstan. Israel has long been known to have several dozen nuclear weapons and reliable delivery systems. South Africa is also a "closet" nuclear power (though recently it claimed to have dismantled its capabilities, the necessary verification to support this claim was not provided). The government of India exploded an underground nuclear device nearly twenty years ago. Since that device was small enough to be placed through a narrow shaft for underground testing, it is small enough to be placed in a jet-fighter's bomb casing as well as on the head of India's several indigenous surface-to-surface missiles. In a word, India possesses the delivery systems too.

Add to this already formidable list other suspected nuclear (or near nuclear) states or those having overt nuclear ambitions: North Korea, Argentina, Brazil, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Pakistan. Furthermore, whenever they wish to, the industrialised nations of Western Europe, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Taiwan have the capacity to rapidly construct an operational nuclear weapons system.

Now, from all over the world, the United States has formulated one law designed to punish one country for developing a nuclear programme. That law is the Pressler Amendment tailored exclusively to penalise only the state of Pakistan for what the latter says is a peaceful programme to harness nuclear energy. This smacks of discrimination at its foulest.

To add further insult to national pride, the Pakistan government has declared that it is "Capping" but not rolling backs its nuclear programme. Adding—hold your breath—that Pakistan has developed the capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons but has decided not to do so.

Why does Pakistan spend previous time, money and effort over decades to develop a capacity to make nuclear weapons and then to decide not to make them after all? Were we otherwise lacking in national agenda, only just passing time? Were we making monkeys out of our scientists, treating them like so many footballs (a game politicians, though, are not allowed to play). Did we have such an extent of surplus resources that we did not know what to do with them?

And the whole process of "capping". In a race as vital as that of national security, whether you cap or nap, the consequence is the same: it is tantamount to a roll-back, a unilateral roll-back, a perpetual roll-back.

Pakistan's nuclear programme, started by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto more than 30 years ago, now belongs to no individual and no government. It belongs to the State and to the sweat of its people. No government or institution must be allowed to tamper with it. It must be given constitutional protection so that it becomes an act of High Treason to hamper, in any way, its full-scale development.

Nuclear weapon status is like virginity: it either exists or it does not. There is no halfway freezing point. Nobody, certainly not the United States, is going to be bamboozled by apologetic proclamations of freezing and capping. Appeasement does not work; it certainly does not carry any rewards. As long as Pakistan remains in a state of nuclear limbo, it will continue to be penalised. Over time, the punishment will get harsher not lighter. A conventionally armed Pakistan, its economy hostage to foreign oil and aid, its Armed Forces dependent on foreign equipment and spare- parts, can be brow-beaten into submission in a multitude of ways.

A nuclear-armed Pakistan, on the other hand, will have to be treated with a fine and delicate touch. It would be an act of great folly to punish it, attempt to starve it, strangulate it or otherwise subvert it. Nuclear weapons carry power and power requires responsibility. Nuclear weapon states cannot be ignored.

Rather than suffer permanent punishment and humiliating threats, Pakistan must present the world with a "fait accompli" and become a full-fledged nuclear weapon power. History has repeatedly demonstrated that it is preferable to have a short and sharp crisis, than to procrastinate, to create conditions of permanent crisis.

Pakistan's nuclear programme is a national investment, indispensable for its security and economic well-being. We cannot afford to mortgage our state's security and our children's future to Mr. Pressler and his discriminatory law.

A nuclear armed Pakistan must be prepared to offer any reasonable assurances to its neighbours, and the international community at large, of responsible behaviour. It must demonstrate that all safety measures have been adopted to dispose of nuclear waste. It must convince its neighbours that sufficient fool-proof safeguards have been taken to prevent an accidental nuclear attack.

In the Cold War, weak and small powers, with outstanding and unresolved disputes, could manoeuvre the superpower rivalry to their own advantage; they could exploit the paranoia of the superpowers, their relentless search for allies, to their own benefit; they could blackmail the two giants by flirting with this one or that—going eventually to whoever gave them more of what they wanted. In the post-Cold War era, with just one superpower, no such options of bargain exist. The Bazaar has shut down. It is a new, cold and lonely world. And as our rulers push and drag us through an international system which is not of their own making and over which they have little control, they must never forget the first rule of both the Bazaar and International polities: "The power to hurt is bargaining power. To exploit it is diplomacy, vicious diplomacy, but diplomacy." (Thomas Scheiling)

Reports of Egyptian Sought in Bomb Attack Denied

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[Text] Islamabad, Nov 30—The Foreign Office has contradicted a news item appearing in some newspapers that an Egyptian national based in Pakistan was being sought in connection with a bomb attack on the motorcade of the Egyptian Prime Minister.

A press release issued by the Foreign Office said that Mustafa Ahmad Hanfi, ambassador of Egypt in Islamabad Tuesday visited and informed the Foreign Office that he had not received any official communication from his government that any Egyptian in Pakistan was responsible for the bomb attack on the motorcade of the Egyptian Prime Minister.

He said no Egyptian had made any such statement.